

THE GATEWAY

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SU campaign garners student engagement

KIRSTEN GORUK
Deputy News Editor

Students sporting red scarves around campus this week are making more than just a fashion statement as they show their support for the Restricted Access campaign, a Students' Union-led initiative to raise awareness about postsecondary education issues.

Restricted Access has been organized to coincide with tomorrow's Board of Governors meeting, when the budget for the coming school year, including tuition and rent increases, will be voted on. However, as SU President Janelle Morin explains, Restricted Access is about more than a few red scarves and a tuition hike.

"We've always planned to do something very large leading up to the decision, but the idea behind exactly what spin we were going to take came directly from our interaction with students," she detailed.

After consulting with interested students and student groups back in December, the focus of the campaign came to rest on the fact that too many students face postsecondary

education accessibility issues.

"From our perspective, education should always be about merit and never about finances. Money shouldn't come into the picture," Morin explained.

"Our ultimate goal, through a whole combination of means including decreased pressure from tuition and residence rates, is to have students

able to fully participate in their educational experience without the pressures that are associated with debt, student loans, [or] with working two jobs."

If ratified by the Board of Governors, tuition will increase by 4.1 per cent next year while residence rent rates will see an increase of eight per cent.

In order to represent the interests of students, the SU has teamed up with

the Graduate Association (GSA) and the University of Alberta's Residence Hall Association (UARHA).

"The collaboration has been unlike anything, I think, that the three major student associations have ever undertaken before," noted GSA President Ben Whynot.

PLEASE SEE ACCESS • PAGE 3

University of Alberta continues to experience recession repercussions

ON BEAUVIAS
Writer

into the first semester of 2009, students more than their GPA to be concerned about, talk of the global financial recession continues. No surprise, then, that the economic climate is taking its toll on the University of Alberta. Current projections indicate that by the end of the year on 31 March, the U of A's endowments have declined by nearly \$100 million, while all units will be required to identify two per cent of operating budgets for reorganization.

The endowment losses have forced administrators to reassess the funding of scholarships, bursaries, and special research positions as they prepare next year's budget.

"We don't know exactly what we're going to do yet," said U of A Vice President (Finance and Administration) Phyllis Clark.

The endowment fund, which consists of contributions to the school as well as tuition revenues and operating grants from the provincial government, has reflected these drops because it is invested in declining equities and bonds.

Clark said that continuing to support needy areas with the fund—including scholarships, bursaries, and staff salaries—is "mission critical" to maintaining good faculty, staff and students, but that the size of short-term payouts to any area must be weighed against the long-term preservation of the fund.

"We don't know exactly what we're going to do yet."

PHYLLIS CLARK
VP (FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION)

"Endowments are meant to last forever, so you've got that responsibility of trying to balance both sides," she explained.

The University is consulting with all of its deans to determine how each faculty might make up for the shortfall.

Last March, the U of A's endowments were valued at around \$730 million dollars. By this March they are expected to be worth around \$630 million, a drop of 14 per cent.

PLEASE SEE RECESSION • PAGES

Learning Clicks unveils CD-ROM

Alberta Government updates interactive PSE preparation tool

JENNIFER HUYGEN
Senior News Editor

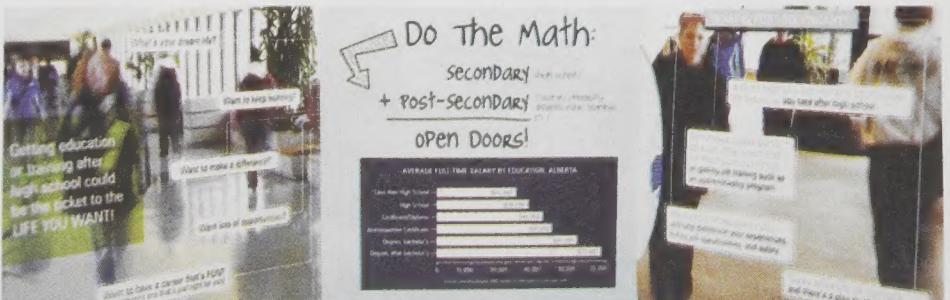
The wide variety of considerations surrounding postsecondary education can seem daunting to junior high and high school students when they begin to think about life after graduation. But thanks to an updated initiative by the Alberta Ministry of Advanced Education and Technology, postsecondary information is now available with a simple click of a button.

As part of the government's Learning Clicks

program, an interactive CD-ROM has been developed to serve as a postsecondary preparation resource for Alberta students ranging from grades seven to twelve.

"It's a suite of tools—it's all the information [students] could possibly need. It has some motivation, it's fun, it's interactive, it's got great colours, it has 29 videos on it and links to over 170 other videos," explained Kenton Putnick, partnerships coordinator with Advanced Education.

PLEASE SEE CD-ROM • PAGE 6



VIRTUAL REALITY Advanced Education has a new and improved interactive PSE CD-ROM.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: PETE YEE

Inside



In with the New

Former U of A student Jeeshan Chowdhury reports directly from Obama's inauguration ceremony

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Out with the Old

The Gateway's intrepid taste testers consume Japanese fibre drink and survive without a colon cleansing

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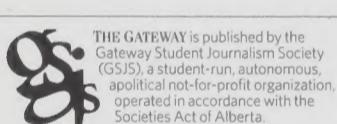
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Artist works alongside Mactaggarts to present collection

JENNIFER HUYGEN
Senior News Editor

World-renowned artist and appraiser Arnold Chang has been fortunate enough to synchronize his extensive resumé with his passion for Chinese art and culture. This made him a natural fit as both a friend and advisor to Drs Sandy and Cecile Mactaggart when they began collecting a diverse repertoire of Chinese artwork two decades ago.

"I first met the Mactaggarts when I was the head of the Chinese painting department at Sotheby's in New York in the '80s," Chang says, recounting his early encounters with the philanthropist couple responsible for the *Brilliant Strokes: Chinese Paintings from the Mactaggart Art Collection* now on display until 24 January at the Telus Centre.

"I was the one who's more responsible, in parts, for helping with the painting portion, which is fewer in number but quite significant in quality."

The University of Alberta Museums is responsible for bringing Chang to campus this week to shed some light on the formation and value of the Mactaggart's collection. Chang will lend an insider's perspective to the art while touring classes, lecturing, and hosting painting workshops from today through Saturday.

A Chinese-American, Chang became interested in the Chinese culture first and foremost through its art. From there, he developed an appreciation of the country's history and politics, including learning the language.



MAN OF MANY TALENTS American artist Arnold Chang will be on campus this week to share his craft with students.

"I'm an American of Chinese descent, and I grew up very Americanized and was drawn to Chinese culture [...] through the art. I saw an exhibition [...] when I was a kid and it just really moved me," he explains.

Chang was fascinated by Chinese painting because he saw it as a less abstract form of artistic expression than the mainstream movements at the time.

"When I was in college, I started as a studio art major and it was at the time when we were sort of taught that being an artist was all about so-called originality and creativity, these kind of vague concepts. Nobody was really teaching much about technique," he reminisces.

"What I liked about Chinese painting was that there are more concrete rules and standards that apply across time, so you can actually sense that you're improving."

30 years later, Chang is still enjoying his craft. As a landscape painter, his work has been displayed in the permanent collection of the British Museum, Harvard University Museum, and the University of Alberta Museums. He has also previously served as Director of the Chinese Paintings Department at Sotheby's auction house and a specialist at the Kaikodo Gallery in New York.

His eclectic background as an artist, art historian, and dealer was a primary reason behind Chang's success assisting the Mactaggarts compile

their collection.

"The main thing in terms of guiding them was to make sure we were quite certain about authenticity—that is to say, whether the things were genuine and quality, and of course, condition," Chang replies.

"It was a learning process for them and for us, but the main thing was that they had to like it. They could have all the expertise in the world and all the experts telling them it was good—if they didn't like it, they weren't interested. It was really interesting to work with them."

Chang will deliver a public lecture tonight at 5:30pm at the Telus Centre entitled "Creating the Mactaggart Art Collection: Insights from an Art World Insider."

STREETERS

Compiled and photographed by
Jonathan Taves and Pete Yee



Andrea Willson
Education III



Weiyang Liu
Masters Sciences



Andrea Andrejevic
Psychology IV



Ian Warneke
Business II

I don't know ... movies. Yeah.

There's too many things—too many inappropriate things. I don't think I want to be putting my face in the paper with these words. How about gym access 24/7?

Money, for sure. [What would you buy?] A good car, pay off my tuition, and never have to work or go to school again.

Right now, probably the education databank here to change my GPA a bit. Are we talking the limits of time or space? Because unlimited access to travel would be sweet.

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U of A researchers to use Japanese satellite to study greenhouse gases

BY STEVEN GORUK
Sports News Editor

The world's first satellite designed to observe concentrations of greenhouse gases (GHG) is scheduled to launch tomorrow from Tanegashima, Japan, and the University of Alberta will be contributing their own brand of research to the project.

The Greenhouse Gases Observation Satellite (GOSAT), known as "IBUKI," is a joint project of the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), the National Institute for Environmental Studies, and the Ministry of the Environment of Japan. In order to acquire a diverse range of data, JAXA issued a call for research proposals, which provided an opportunity that U of A researchers Petr Musilek and Hugo Sanchez jumped at.

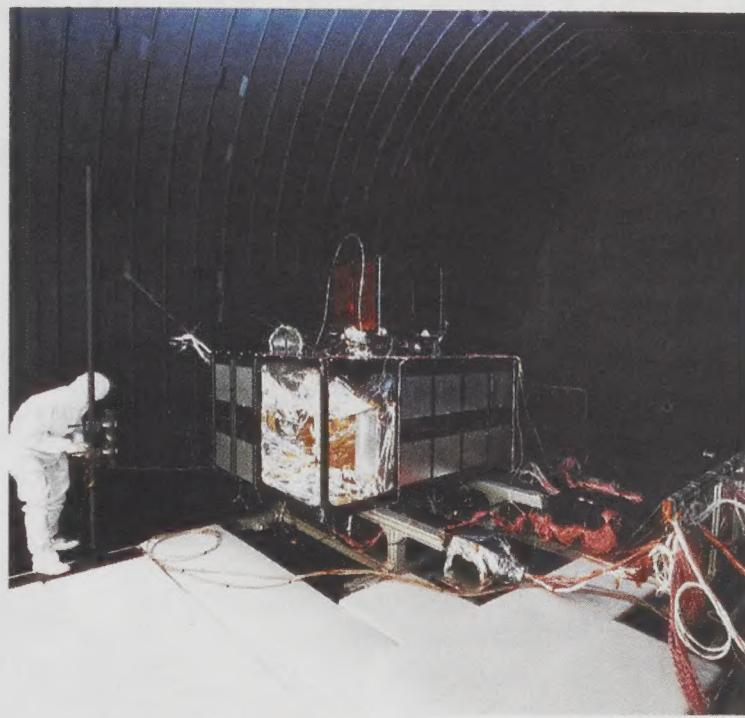
Musilek, an associate professor with the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, and Sanchez, a professor with the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, will be representing the U of A's and the province's perspective on the initiative.

As Sanchez puts it, the satellite will provide a clearer map of the emissions coming over Alberta's oil sands.

"Our main involvement is in the development of applications to characterize surges and sinks of CO₂ and ethane for the province from a very high spatial resolution," he explained. However, Sanchez is also interested in learning more about Alberta as a whole, rather than focusing on the oil sands as the sole contributor to emissions.

"A lot of the emissions are coming from the oil sands in Fort McMurray, but maybe there are other sites that have been overlooked so far," he speculated. In a similar vein, Musilek—whose research will focus more on the computer processing of the data—hopes that IBUKI will shed some light on the oil sands stage when it comes to greenhouse gases.

"What's very important about the satellite is that it can give us a lot of real information about GHG around the world. Currently there are 300 stations available and some areas including [Canada] that aren't really



SUPPLIED

OUT OF THIS WORLD The satellite will measure GHG emissions as it orbits Earth.

covered [...] This satellite will provide us with very dense measurements which will total 56 000 stations compared to 300," he stated.

With many questions surrounding emissions in Alberta now being answered, Musilek is also looking at the bigger picture.

"The snapshots that we can get from the satellite will show us the location of greenhouse gas emissions, but we would also like to use this [information] to help us assess some of the greenhouse gas reduction strategies," he noted.

It's that kind of information that fuels Sanchez's investment in the project—one that he hopes will relate back to environmental concerns about climate change.

"We hope that this technology will allow us to have a very comprehensive picture of how the province looks as a whole with the significant applications for other elements of integrated resource management and biodiversity," he said.

Following the launch, the satellite will orbit over the province every three days, at which point both Musilek and Sanchez will begin to compile the data

in conjunction with geological information and ground data.

Eventually, Musilek would like to be able to create a model that would track the emissions across Alberta.

"We'd like to establish a web-based system for monitoring all greenhouse gases—their concentrations and movements—in real time, or near real time," he explained.

While Musilek deals with the technical aspect of the research, Sanchez is hoping to share what they uncover with a broader audience.

"I think that the information that this satellite will produce will be a very interesting opportunity for people to get together and start talking in a more comprehensive way about the emissions," he said.

It's an opportunity that Sanchez feels can reach beyond the hard data and create a conversation about the issues that the numbers serve to reflect.

"This initiative provides the U of A with a very important profile in terms of what we can do and how we can contribute to the sustainability of the province, but also puts us on the path of becoming more environmentally conscious citizens."

Decision aside, access still an issue: Morin

ACCESS • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
Governors meeting.

Regardless of the result of Friday's vote, Morin is convinced that the concerns represented by Restricted Access aren't going anywhere, anytime soon.

"This project is truly broader and deeper than the yearly tuition and rent increases debates that have happened. Access is a long-term project."

JANELLE MORIN
SU PRESIDENT

"This project is truly broader and deeper than the yearly tuition and rent increase debates that have happened. Access is a long-term project and it's going to take a long-term push from a lot of students to make real, substantive, systematic changes," Morin explained.

Whynot agrees, noting that students who are experiencing financial pressure overlook the fact that members of the board have a difficult decision to make.

"I know that the view is that somehow all is lost if the increase goes through. You never know what could happen, but I think it's safe to say that the pressure on members of the board will be tremendous to vote for the increase and I don't think students should be disheartened if that is the result," he pointed out.

"If nothing else, campaigns like these are useful in terms of putting out issues that are important to students all the time."

The University administration declined to comment on the issue due to a media policy surrounding the undecided vote of the Board of Governors.

"If the decisions are overturned on 23 January, access will still be an issue. If they're not overturned, access will be a little more of an issue. It's really about more than this one meeting," she stated.

Ultimately for her, the campaign is about creating a platform for further discussion of the issues at hand.

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U of A faring better than others: Clark

SESSION • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
But despite the damage, the U of A still be in a good position relative to other Canadian schools.

The University of Calgary recently reported that they have lost \$78 million in the last fiscal year—an 18 per cent reduction in value—while the University of Toronto reported in December that the \$62 million protective cushion it set up to shield itsowment from economic decline has been erased.

Clark credits a relatively low-risk investment strategy and strong internal accountability for the U of A's imparably favourable situation.

Nonetheless, maintaining sizable payouts to research salaries, scholarships, and bursaries is still of major concern to administrators.

Amidst talk of cutbacks, Students' Union President Janelle Morin stressed that scholarships and bursaries must be protected at a time when posed tuition and rent increases are encroaching upon students already suffering from the economic downturn.

"On the one hand, RESPs are dissipating, savings are dissipating [...] and on the other hand, costs are increasing." Ensuring that the university protects scholarships and bursaries will be a priority, she vowed.

Clark, however, worries that further cuts for money from the province may threaten the critical six per cent tuition transfer and graduate student aid that has already asked for.

Type 2 diabetes linked to cognitive decline

CAROLINE LEE
News Staff

By establishing a link between cognitive decline and type 2 diabetes in the January 2009 issue of *Neuropsychology*, researchers at the University of Alberta provided another reason to be concerned about the rising incidence of this disease in adults around the world.

Conducted as part of the Victoria Longitudinal Study that follows three independent samples of initially healthy adults between the ages of 53–90 at three-year intervals, the team of researchers led by Dr Roger Dixon compared cross-sectional data of 41 adults diagnosed with adult-onset Type 2 diabetes to 424 healthy adults.

"Neurocognitive speed tests showed that older diabetes patients are reliably slower than older adult control participants," explained Dixon, a Canada Research Chair and U of A professor of psychology, via email correspondence with the *Gateway*.

"Cognitive slowing may be an especially sensitive marker of the effects of diabetes on brain function."

Diabetes, with its worldwide prevalence doubling from 1995 to 2005, has become a major concern to the medical field, resulting in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) marking the rise as an epidemic. Out of the 12 per cent of Canadians over the age of 60 that are diagnosed with diabetes, an estimated 90 per cent of these incidences are classified as type 2.

Though the exact origin of type 2 diabetes has not been identified,

Dixon pointed to some factors that increase the likelihood of developing the disorder.

"Among the key risk factors are increasing age, obesity, and lack of physical activity," he explained.

Using cognitive neuropsychological tests that measured performance in five domains, Dixon discovered that healthy adults performed significantly better in two domains: executive functioning and neurocognitive speed.

The former involves the ability to monitor and control ongoing cognitive operations, including abstract thinking, planning, and regulation of appropriate and inappropriate behaviour. The latter is a measure of processing speed, a domain that is sensitive to normal aging and early cognitive impairment.

On the other hand, tests of episodic and semantic memory, verbal fluency, reaction time, and perceptual speed did not yield significant differences. These findings suggest that diabetic patients will be able to carry out everyday actions without any noticeable deficits, as long as they are not performing tasks that require higher levels of monitoring and response.

In addition, the researchers noted that the performance gap between the healthy adults and diabetic group did not widen in the older group of participants. This suggests that these declines in cognitive function are early onset symptoms of the disease.

While the results are significant, Dixon notes that there are many questions that still need to be addressed about the effects of diabetes on cognitive function. Though they were able to establish a link between decline in

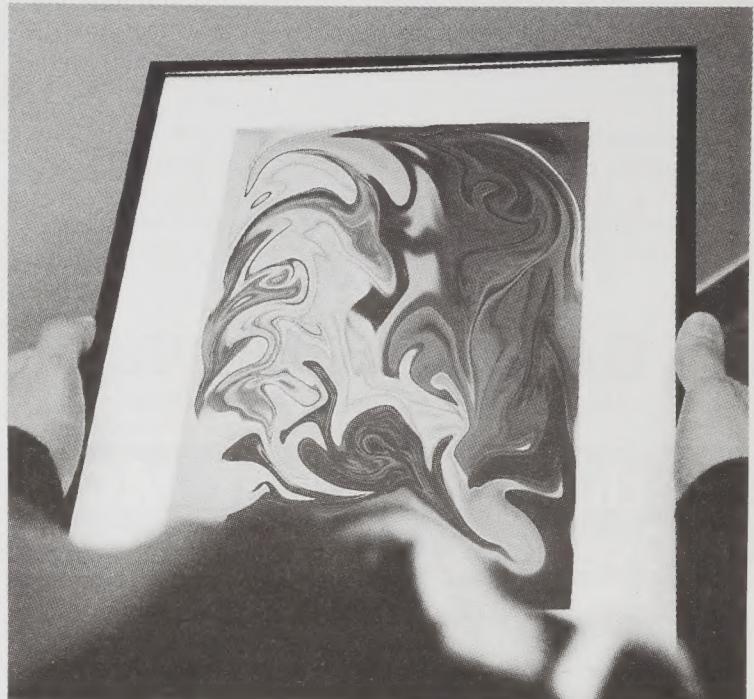


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: PETE YEE

COGNITIVE CONFUSION Researchers are studying the neural effects of diabetes.

cognitive abilities and the disorder, the reason behind this deficit has yet to be determined.

"At the basic biological level, the specific pathogenic processes that lead to type 2 diabetes require much further research, although several risk factors have been identified. In general, it would appear that vascular health in the brain is part of the network of causes of cognitive decline," Dixon described.

"This is supported by the findings that vascular diseases are associated with diabetes. They also can have effects on cognition in normal aging and neurodegenerative diseases."

In the meantime, Dixon explained that certain strategies can be adopted to minimize the effects of type 2 diabetes and improve the cognitive skills that are impacted.

"Older diabetes patients should meticulously follow the recommendations of their personal physician. Careful management of the disease and continued practice of these cognitive skills can help maintain cognitive performance in everyday life," Dixon advised.

"Physical activity and exercise is often recommended for the disease, and this can have beneficial effects on basic neurocognitive skills."

EDMONTON'S
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Next Gen

Next Gen is looking for New Members!

Are you between the ages of 18-40 years old? Are you passionate about making Edmonton a city of choice for young people? Next Gen is currently recruiting new community members to sit on the steering committee and give voice to what really matters in Edmonton.

Who are we looking for?

- Next Gen is recruiting for 6 community members between 18-40 years who live in Edmonton.
- Individuals who are leaders, can take charge of projects and initiatives, and can work with a variety of people and backgrounds.
- Individuals will have previous Board or Committee experience and/or experience working with volunteers.

Responsibilities:

- Each member is appointed to serve a two-year term, and is expected to attend 10 regularly scheduled meetings during the year.
- Members serve on a voluntary basis with lunch or dinner provided at meetings.
- There is approximately a 10-15 hour time commitment each month, which includes the participation on one working group which meets during the evening each month.

Benefits of being on Next Gen:

There are many benefits of being part of Next Gen, including:

- The opportunity to contribute to making Edmonton the place for young people to live, work and grow!
- You will meet new people and work on a variety of exciting projects, help design and implement a long-term direction for the City, and apply your knowledge and skills through a variety of mediums.
- This is a truly rewarding experience as you will be part of a dedicated group of individuals who are interested in making a difference in the community!

What is the Next Gen?

Next Gen's mission is to create a city that attracts young people between 18-40 years old and gives voice to the Next Generation in the life and growth of our community. Next Gen is an administrative committee that involves a cross-sector of civic-community collaboration, and brings together diverse volunteer Next Gen Edmontonians and staff from City departments.

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or visit: www.edmontonnextgen.ca.

For more information, please contact:

Christine Causing, Next Gen Initiative Coordinator
Christine.Causing@edmonton.ca

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pandiculation \pan-dik-yuh-LEY-shuhn\, noun:
1) an instinctive stretching, as on awakening or while yawning.

As used in a sentence: I'm so bored that I spent my free time sleeping and that means all that pandiculation!

Here at Gateway news, we're always on the go. There's no time for napping, never mind the stretching that goes with it! We figure if you've got time to stretch, or nap for that matter, you've got time to write for us! Come check out the business of news at one of our meetings—Fridays at 4pm in SUB 3-04.

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Toronto's York University students continue to lose out on class time

By rejecting the University's offer, CUPE 3903 union members remain on strike

SCOTT MCLEAN
RENATA VALZ
The Excalibur

TORONTO (CUP)—About 40 members of the striking union at Toronto's York University—the union that has held out for 77 days so far—celebrated, chanting: "Strike to win! Strike to win!" as Tuesday's results of the forced-ratification vote were announced; 63 per cent of the union's membership voted to reject what has been called York's final offer.

In what has been a delicate and often unpredictable dance between York University administration and CUPE 3903—which represents York's teaching assistants and contract faculty—the two-day voting process that represented hope for students and faculty members alike has bitterly divided the two sides even further.

York has now broken its own previous record for the longest recorded strike of 76 days as set in 2000/01.

It is still unknown when exactly classes will be back in session, as all sides continue to play the waiting game.

Classes, once resumed, are expected to continue well into the months of June or July, disrupting summer jobs and internships and killing the prospect of earning a full summer's wage—something York President Mamdouh Shoukri regrets.

Shoukri, who declined to speak publicly throughout the course of the strike—held a press conference during the vote on Tuesday.

Union members banged on the

door, attempting to gain entry, as university officials and Shoukri's own security detail pushed them away.

Graham Potts, CUPE 3903's chief negotiator, who was on hand to celebrate alongside his union colleagues, said he expected the results.

"I'm not really surprised at all; our membership rejected this deal once, they've now rejected it twice," Potts said.

Potts added that he hopes the two sides will continue negotiations.

"Hopefully they'll be there," he said. "If not, it does show how little of a commitment they do have to coming to an agreeable settlement."

"We will deal with it as we go, but we are most certainly not willing to compromise the future of the university."

MAMDOUH SHOUKRI
YORK UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT

Shoukri said the union would sit alone until they make major adjustments to their proposals.

"We will not resume bargaining until we see a significant move [from the union]," he said. "We will not participate in so-called negotiations for the sake of appearances."

Though most would assume CUPE 3903 now has greater leverage—a No vote having turned the university's offer into the benchmark for negotiation talks—Shoukri expressed

CD employs interactive feel

CD-ROM • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"We kind of designed it around a bit of a gaming atmosphere."

The CD is designed in the likeness of a virtual Campus Alberta, with buildings representing the four different types of institutions in the province—universities, public and private colleges, and technical institutes. Students can create an avatar and profile in order to receive more personalized information.

"We designed it on a streetscape; we created Campus Alberta as buildings. So you pop in the CD and go through this profile section where you put in information about yourself and all this information kind of comes back to you with targeted messages and resourcing," Puttick observed.

Once inside the electronic building of choice, students can access information on topics such as finance, student life, programming options, and application processes.

"If there's one thing that I've heard in the two-and-a-half years or so that I've been in this post, when I talk to kids in junior high or high school, it's, 'what are you going to do?' and, 'I have no idea. There's too many choices, and there's too much information.' So putting the information in a way that's easily accessible under a Campus Alberta format, I think it's a great way to reach out," said Doug Horner, Minister of Advanced Education and Technology.

"It's important to have a format of information that's familiar to somebody who's used to using web-based or CD-ROM type information, which I would say most junior high or high

school kids are probably involved in."

The Learning Clicks program began in 2004, making this CD the second version to be released in five years. Yet Horner and Puttick agree that while the updated CD acts as a useful resource, it stands secondary to the face-to-face interaction and classroom presentations that define Learning Clicks.

The program is composed of two main components—presentations to youth and presentations to adults, which see Learning Clicks ambassadors travel around the province to deliver information and resources about postsecondary to classroom or parental settings.

"We've got these enthusiastic and really dynamic postsecondary students who work for us and we hire them, we pay them fairly well, and they go out and give presentations to junior and senior high schools classrooms on what it's like to be a postsecondary student," Puttick said.

University of Alberta student Trevor Slivkanich is one of this year's ambassadors. The fourth year religious studies major sees the new CD as a fitting complement to the existing program.

"All the information you want to find is really easy to find, it's really easy to use. It's bright, it's exciting, and it really captures the attention," he remarked.

"A lot of the kids, when you give it to them, you try to explain it to them first, but they're so excited just to use it and it's so easy to use that I might be still explaining how to create a profile and they're already looking at jobs and looking at the videos."

NEWS BRIEF

MSA RESCHEDULES CHECKPOINT DEMONSTRATION

As students on the University of Alberta campus travel freely from class to class the Muslim Students' Association (MSA) has devised a way to bring the realities of restrictions on freedom of movement in Gaza a little bit closer to home.

Originally planning to stage a mock Israeli checkpoint in Quad yesterday afternoon, the MSA's event will now be moved to today at noon after the group's request for an outdoor permit was postponed yesterday morning.

"They've done this at other universities as well, but basically the point is just to send out this message in a more creative way," said Sana Ghani, Social Justice Chair with the MSA.

"These violent interruptions happen while you're going through your day-to-day business."

Instead of blocking the main pathway in Quad that connects the Student Union Building (SUB) to the Central Academic Building (CAB) as was initially planned, the MSA will now stage the checkpoint off to the side of the path and will also use a cardboard wall and volunteers acting as Palestinian civilians and Israeli soldiers to set the scene.

According to the MSA, the "tongue-down" plan comes as a result of concerns expressed by Frank Robinson, interim dean of students, including obstruction of traffic and threatening to restrict freedom of movement.

Dean Robinson could not be reached for comment as of press time.

—Jennifer Huygen, Senior News Editor

OPINION

Save the party and lose the lame stunt

A NEW GROUP HAS SWOOPED INTO TOWN whose goal is to save "the party." At first thought, you may wonder which political party needs saving this one around, but they're actually referring to short shorts, body shots, and grinding boys and girls. The city-funded group operating under the uninspiring moniker, "Save the Party," is apparently trying to encourage safe drinking in some vague way, at least from what I can gleam from their press release.

This "party" is not a get-together, but a typical night along the Jasper and Whyte Avenue strips. Really though, the night life along the most popular spots in Edmonton doesn't need saving; an attitude adjustment, maybe, but certainly not by a bunch of wide-eyed university-aged kids.

Aside from deploying an army of 18–24 year-olds as nightwatchmen on the avenues, Save the Party seems lost and vague as to what they're actually trying to accomplish. Their "be a good boy or girl" message has to be deciphered, since they lack the ability to communicate that through both their name and manifesto. If someone didn't have a clue as to what Save the Party is about and were to stumble upon their promo materials, one would probably assume that they're a group dedicated to spending the weekends preserving all-night ragers. As if this aspect of promotion isn't bad enough, the theme for the website and campaign is eerily similar to Koodo Mobile, minus the spandex.

Beyond the message itself, the method of delivery is flawed to the point where these kids are being set up to be berated in the streets. Having volunteers that are in the same age group as your intended targets creates a social understanding, and while operating under the guise of promoting the party, it lets them freely interact with those in line waiting to get into the bars. However, it also makes it easier for people to not take them seriously. At the end of the night, these walkers for responsible drinking are about as effective as those who walk for Darfur.

The group and the city backers will inevitably call this a success, regardless of the outcome, because of the year-long campaign's visibility and wide-reaching presence. But just because they may have been able to speak to a wide number of people doesn't mean that anything will come of it. When you're armed with a hot chocolate-filled super soaker, even the most ignorant people will spare you five minutes. People are generally nice enough to listen to just about anything and they might even absorb some of what you have to say. However, even the keenest person out there won't remember much of your message after a night of drunken debauchery.

The idea is a good start in the attempts to re-educate the new generation flocking to the streets at night, but this isn't the correct approach—they can't even properly convey their mission statement through a two-minute video. The images associated with their presentation of the word "party" are too far gone to have a proper connection to their specific goal: the night life. At the very least, the people behind Save the Party should mention somewhere in their manifesto that the initiative is to create a better experience for those partying on Whyte and not just to prolong the evening.

When one drunk asshole gets kicked out of a bar for causing a ruckus, the night is far from over for them and their friends—that competition down the street wouldn't mind taking a few dollars from a drunk. All the hot chocolate and free t-shirts in the world aren't going to change that fact.

PETE YEE
Photo Editor

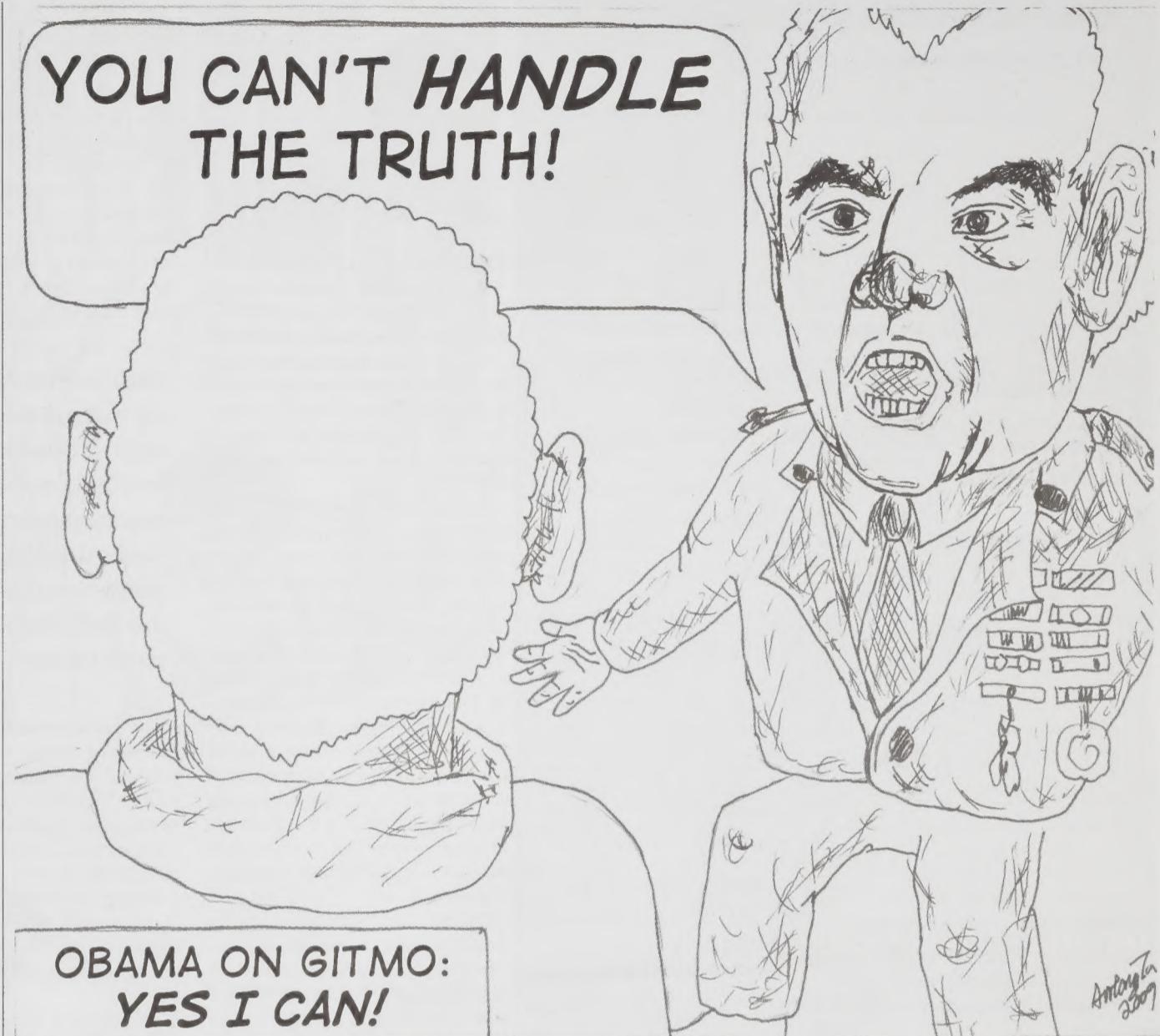
Keep the car running

The city has decided to postpone implementing their anti-idling bylaw for another year, opting instead to run another education campaign. But instead of wasting another \$140 000 on another ignored awareness campaign, they should just forget the whole thing. Because no matter what the consequence, people will prefer idling to getting constantly stuck behind junkers that can't get their engines to turn-over after shutting them down at red lights.

CONAL PIERSE
Managing Editor

opinion@gateway.ualberta.ca • thursday, 22 january 2009

YOU CAN'T HANDLE THE TRUTH!



LETTERS

Lint specs aren't fetuses

The unborn is, by definition, an individual, living, human being (re: "DNA ≠ Humanity," 20 January). He or she has their own set of unique DNA, distinct from his or her mother, father, and all other living beings. He or she is alive—life being characterized by growth, metabolism, reaction to stimuli, and the ability to reproduce.

From conception, the embryo has everything they need to continue development, changing only in appearance, not in nature. As such, the unborn differs from an adult in only four ways: size, level of development, environment, and degree of dependency, none of which have any bearing whatsoever on the worth of human life.

When has size had any bearing on one's right to life? Are people who are less developed less human? Does one's position or environment dictate one's worth? Does one's degree of dependency define personhood? These ideas stem from defining people based on their size, what they can do, where they are, and their level of dependency, instead of who they are—human beings. All human life is precious, and needs to be celebrated, affirmed, and defended.

NICOLE SEREVIN
Science III

Righteous anger needed over ETS congestion

Your sub-headline "Lazy, uninteresting protest campaigns only serve to increase student apathy" reminded me of the phrase "apathy is a problem but who cares?"

I've been quite angry with the City of Edmonton over the backlog of

ETS buses at approximately 4:30-5pm—for several days in December and January it has taken close to an hour to travel south by bus from University to Southgate (via the 6 down 114 street).

I suggested to the city traffic operations that they should lengthen the green light at 83 Avenue and 114 Street to let more buses through, and that ETS should also lobby for this change. I've had a reply that traffic operations feels the situation is fine—and have had no reply from ETS. Ward 5 councillor Bryan Anderson has taken the time to write, but I think he understands what the administration in ETS and traffic operations want him to understand—after all, he probably gets a vehicle as part of his compensation package.

To conclude, if any University of Alberta students have voiced concerns over this, then feel free to use my information. (I'm not a student but am working at U of A until August). If not, then I guess apathy is a problem, but who cares? However, if this stonewall continues, the two incumbent aldermen in Ward 5 may have me to challenge them in the 2010 municipal elections.

ROBERT MADILL
Via Email

Letters to the editor should be sent to letters@gateway.ualberta.ca.

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libellous, or otherwise hateful in nature. The Gateway also reserves the right to publish letters online.

Letters to the editor should be under 350 words, and should include the author's name, program, year of study, and student identification to be considered for publication.

LETTERS FROM THE ARCHIVES

U of A students gifted

As I sit at my desk in my room on campus, my textbooks lined up in front of me, I get excited at the prospect of the coming school year.

I strongly feel the imminent opportunity to learn and grow. I'm thankful to be here.

I read and hear many complaints that tuition is too high, student loans insufficient, and budget cuts so horrendous as to make, so it would seem, progress impossible. I'm saddened by the tone of antagonism in these voices.

I was born in Alberta, received a degree from York University in Toronto, and travelled, taught, and studied around the world. My marriage having ended, I suddenly found myself needing to retrain. Three-year programs in my area of interest could be found in England, Israel, or the United States. Each one of these would have cost multiple thousands of dollars per term. Health insurance rates would have been astronomical in some cases. I simply could not afford foreign study at this time.

I found an excellent alternative here at the University of Alberta. I applied for student loans. My province and my country came through for me. Tuition is affordable for me and I will have enough to live. Not only is health insurance comprehensive and cheap, I can even receive a subsidy on my premiums. Despite budget cuts, resources and facilities unimaginable in many other countries (or regions of Canada for that matter) are at my fingertips.

One can't be made to see one's affluence or culture in perspective, I believe, without the education of travel. Therefore I can understand that some students may complain. To tell them that they should feel lucky or blessed is like hearing Grandpa comparing depression hardships with today; the concept just doesn't register easily.

I for one do realize our privileges. I feel lucky and blessed. Thanks to all those responsible for enabling me to be here. Best wishes to all members of U of A staff in their respective responsibilities this year.

KELLY ELLISON
12 September, 1991

Dino dysfunction

While the natural history display in the Rutherford Library concourse is of great interest, any self-respecting paleontologist or geologist couldn't fail to notice that two of the plant fossils—*Platanus* and *Psilophyton*—have their labels switched.

D C SPEIRS
16 September, 1975

Letters from the Archives is a semi-regular feature where the Gateway runs historical letters that we feel are of particular importance—or are just really hilarious.

Now you can check out all the old-timey fun for yourself! Just browse thegatewayonline.ca and follow the links to the Gateway's digital archives.

While you're on the website, be sure to take a peek at our online-exclusive content, including blog posts and multimedia such as audio interviews. Rad.

THE GATEWAY

The Gateway is hiring a BUSINESS MANAGER

The Gateway Student Journalism Society is hiring a Business Manager for a one-year term to begin as soon as the position can be filled.

The ideal candidate will be an adaptable individual who is either a recent university graduate, or is close to completing a degree. The ideal candidate will also possess specific employment experience with team leadership and sales management, knowledge of basic bookkeeping, familiarity with member-driven not-for-profit organizations, some marketing experience, proficiency in the Mac OS X computer environment, basic understanding of print production processes, and some knowledge of the dynamics of the newspaper industry. Understanding that not all candidates will possess these varied qualifications, candidates possessing a mix of related experience and a demonstrated appetite for learning are encouraged to apply.



The opening is a flexible 30hr/week minimum one-year contract position. Remuneration is negotiable based on the applicant's qualifications and experience. The complete job description is available at www.thegatewayonline.ca/gsj

Position to be filled immediately. Please provide a full resume and a cover letter describing your experience and career goals.

Applications may be submitted to the attention of "Gateway Business Manager Hiring Committee" either by e-mail to biz@gateway.ualberta.ca, by fax to 780.492.6665, or in person at the main reception desk of the U of A Students' Union in 2-900 SUB between 9:00 am and 4:30 pm.

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

LEFT GLOW

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Ski Hill Access & Ski Workshops 2 pm - 5 pm (register at Winterlight.ca)
Introduction to XC Skiing 5 - 9 pm
6 K "Fun Run for the Light" 5 pm start
"Big Air" Freestyle Ski Demo 8 - 9 pm
Special Event The Baba Yaga Trail Adventure! An interactive story hike in Whitemud Park. Journey through the woods to Baba Yaga's house!
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winterlight.ca

Kidneys: they're in you to give, not hold hostage

MIKE DADURAL



There are many types of jerks in our world. Examples include the person who cuts in line at the grocery store, the guy who smokes on the LRT, and, of course, Sean Avery. But no one could be as massive a jerk as New York doctor Richard Batista: the person who donated his kidney to save his wife but now sues her to get it back.

The bizarre story goes like this: wife needs kidney, husband comes to the rescue and donates his own kidney, wife accepts the kidney, and they live happily ever after until he soon suspects that the wife is cheating on him. They file for divorce and, to add insult to injury, the husband sues the wife for \$1.5 million dollars or the return of his former organ. Talk about your literal kidney shot—if the husband actually wins this case, the wife has to make the choice of being completely financially crippled (in an already floundering economy) or choosing to wait anxiously for the mere possibility of another kidney.

On the other side, most lawyers would say that a donated organ is considered to be a "gift," rather than marital property that can be divided. Which makes sense, given that half of a kidney is pretty useless. One can't take a donated item back. That's like taking clothes you donated towards the Salvation Army back because you forgot to do laundry.

But the real question that arises from this whole debacle is whether the husband deserves to get his kidney

back—and the answer is, "yes and no, but mostly no." On the one hand, he did save her life by donating his kidney and one would expect her to become almost eternally grateful. So I can understand why he would act in such a way—I would be angry too if I suspected my wife, to whom I generously offered my kidney, of cheating. But I wouldn't go to such gut-wrenching and potentially fatal lengths to screw her over.

Most lawyers would say that a donated organ is considered to be a "gift," rather than marital property that can be divided. Which makes sense, given that half of a kidney is pretty useless.

The husband is lashing out because he's having trouble coping with the fact that his marriage has disintegrated. Whatever happened to just talking about it, apologizing, buying the wife some flowers, and then have crazy make-up sex to patch things up? I thought that's what married couples do these days. But, since that didn't happen, it's time to just accept the fact that his wife is leaving him and move on.

This situation is a clear example of how love can make us all go crazy. First it makes us go above and beyond for the one we love, giving them organs along with boxes of chocolate. Then it can blind with anger and make us do things that are way out of line, and holding a kidney hostage exemplifies this.

THE BURLAP SACK

Music, or more specifically, people's tastes in music, can be a very contentious subject. Every once in a blue moon, however, one comes across music that is so empirically horrible that everyone agrees that it must be stuffed in a burlap sack, covered in cement, and buried under several layers of earth so that it may no longer assault our ears.

Exhibit A: the musical stylings of Microsoft Songsmith.

A research project from Microsoft's Redmond labs, its concept is simple: records vocals, and once the recording is complete, it dubs your track over an accompaniment of its own choosing. In theory, a bold idea; but in practice, every song ends up sounding like a shoddy karaoke track.

The results Songsmith produces are so ridiculous that users online have started using the tool to ruin pre-existing music. By ripping vocal tracks out of songs and plugging them into the program, new musical abominations are created. Imagine The Police's "Roxanne" with an island beat, or a techno version of Oasis' "Wonderwall"; with Songsmith, anything is possible. Occasionally, it appears to have produced something passable, but since the program has no notion of verse or chorus, as soon as there's any variation in song structure, it becomes an unlistenable mess.

Songsmith holds incredible destructive power, and if Microsoft knows what's best, they'll throw it back in the Burlap Sack: the fate of the music industry depends on it.

LUCAS WAGNER

The Burlap Sack is a semi-regular feature where a person or group who needs to be put in a sack and beaten is ridiculed in print. No sack beatings are actually administered.

Forget the US—Ottawa is finally riveting

PAUL KNOECHEL



"A legitimate power struggle for the leadership of our country is unfolding and we should be paying attention to this rare, interesting moment in Canadian politics before it eventually and inevitably fizzles out into another quagmire of bullshit and uninspired speeches delivered to an equally passionless masses."

Hurrah. Obama is now the President of the United States, taking office in the showiest and most over-hyped inauguration in the history of the country—probably. It's great, but oversold and so on and so forth—that's all been covered before. Yes, he's awesome, and when he makes his first minor misstep and gets attacked like a wounded buffalo in a nature film by some asshole pundit, I'll be right there to swear at them on Barack's behalf. But until then, Canada, stop throwing fucking inauguration parties for someone that isn't even your elected official.

Yes—inauguration parties for some other country's president. Apparently, there are a couple of bars in Toronto (and probably across the nation) marking the occasion with celebrations and free t-shirts. One place even invented the drink "Barack on the Rocks." Now, I generally approve of making up excuses to go drinking, but this isn't good-natured alcoholism pouncing on another opportunity to get splashed at noon. This is

overflow of America's "Obamania" that is stupid by itself on several levels, but especially so in Canada. I mean, what happened to the country of my childhood that usually tried so hard to separate itself from American news issues for fears of becoming what the rest of the world usually sees us as: mini-America?

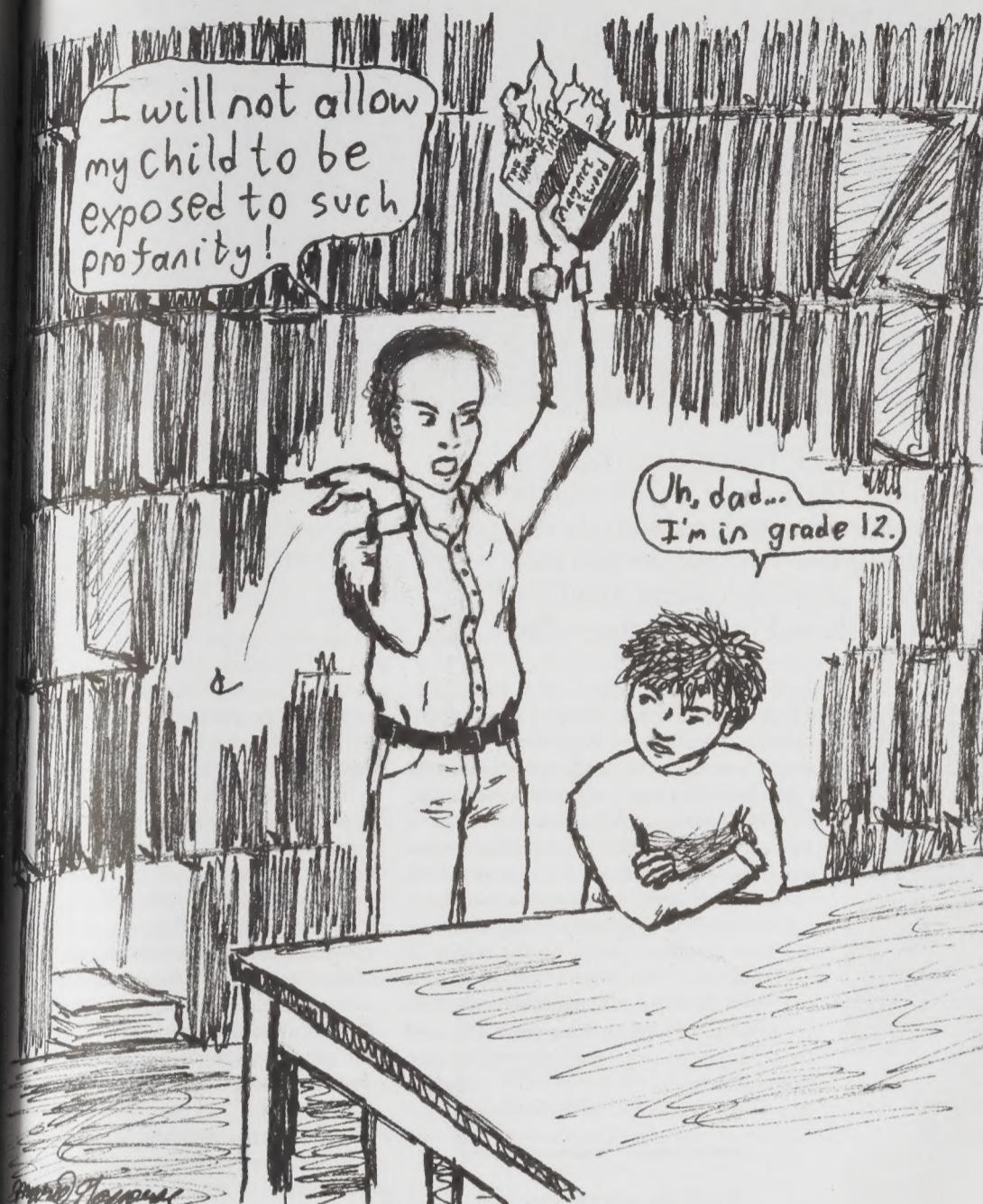
Canadians should pay a little attention to what's happening in our own political system. Sure, "black guy as president" is new, but it's more novel than anything else, only referenced so many times to try and add weight behind the charismatic Obama. A legitimate power struggle for the leadership of our country is unfolding and we should be paying attention to this rare, interesting moment in Canadian politics before it eventually and inevitably fizzles out into another quagmire of bullshit and uninspired speeches delivered to an equally passionless masses.

While everyone has been wetting themselves over Obama, has even one person stopped to consider that the person who should be holding the

most figurehead position imaginable, the Governor General, actually holds true power in Canada? Canada has had a poor historical record when it comes to asserting our independence, but even I thought that we were free from the influence of the queen's representatives at this point.

Also of interest is the fact that the NDP and the Liberals could form an alliance and perhaps eventually form one party if this coalition thing goes alright for them. That's an unsettling push towards the shitty two-party system that America has shown us fails time and time again. Then again, maybe the pressures of constant minority governments and other political parties ganging up against them could split the right into forming two parties.

Come on people—that's just one of a dozen important implications of this time in Canadian politics. Anyone? Is this thing even fucking on? Damn all—fine. I'll just go back to getting wasted in honour of Obama. Whoops. I mean "honor." We're heading that way anyway.



MARIE GOJMERAC

Censorship still a burning issue

Ontario man's crusade against Atwood novel is ignorant and authoritarian



CODY CIVIERO

Last week, a Toronto father expressed outrage over his son's high school class requirement to read Margaret Atwood's *A Handmaid's Tale*. After he filed a complaint over the content, the school allowed his teenage child to read an alternate novel and leave the class during certain discussions; however, that still failed to appease parental instincts. Unsatisfied, he's taking the fight a step further and attempting to ban the book from the curriculum entirely, whether other parents are alright with it or not.

This sentiment is hardly fresh—the dystopian novel was the 37th most-challenged book in America throughout the '90s and continues to draw fire from overzealous parents at a steady rate (amazingly, the student was instructed to read Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World*, the 52nd most challenged book on the same list, instead).

There's currently no serious risk that anything will come of the complaint, but the sheer number of objections raised on a regular basis are enough to be a cause for concern. The absurdity of the situation is multiplied by the fact that the son is a just few thin hairs away from adulthood, but daddy's audacity would be abhorrent regardless.

If he doesn't want his child to be

exposed to certain material, then that's his business and his son can feel free to grow up to resent his puritanical upbringing. But he has absolutely no right to dictate what the general public can and can't read in accordance with his own personal biases. And most of these straight-laced parents who object to sexual content and violence in literature should try cracking open their Bibles once in a while before they open their mouths.

Instead of feeling threatened by opposing viewpoints, reasonable people should view other ideas as healthy food for thought and use the exercise to critically justify their own opinions.

Social progress would be impossible without exposure to new ideas. Artistic expression is and always has been a driving force for social and cultural change. Instead of moving forward, this father wants to not only to remain in an intellectual dark age, but also to force everyone else to go there with him.

The primary reason cited for the challenge was its criticism of Christian theocracy. But instead of feeling threatened and acting hostile towards opposing viewpoints, reasonable people should view other ideas as healthy food for thought and

use the exercise to critically justify their own opinions.

The complaint also alleged that the book was "rife with brutality towards and mistreatment of women (and men at times), sexual scenes, and bleak depression." As far as these features, especially the violence towards women, it's evident that this man has no understanding of context. Depiction of an act hardly equals acceptance. In fact, it's impossible to condemn something without at least alluding to it. By his very logic, he should censor his own formal complaint.

The experience of having your beliefs challenged is inevitable in a free society and we all have a moral obligation to accept it when it happens. Such episodes shouldn't be viewed as an attack, but an opportunity for education and self-improvement.

Well-formed, justifiable positions can only be borne out of consideration of alternative arguments. If I ever have children, I will instruct them to consider the merits of information presented to them and exercise skepticism as well as open-mindedness, rather than shield them from ideas that don't line up with my personal ideologies.

Censorship is inherently self-defeating because it attacks our ability to exercise discretion based on someone's own discretion. People have a right not to listen, look, or read, and that is as far as censorship should extend. If we allow blanket bans to pass based on offences against people like this uptight dad, then our society will be sterilized and defined by its most hyperbolically oversensitive individual.

One by one, we can be the better world we wish for.

— Kobi Yamada

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DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES: JANUARY 31st, 2009



Inauguration through Canadian eyes

FOR MOST UNIVERSITY STUDENTS, history and children are thought of in the abstract. The former is studied and not lived. The latter is only actively considered when being prevented. So it was remarkable when the two, history and future children, were the most common reasons amongst my peers for braving the crowds and cold to witness the inauguration of Barack Obama.



It seemed as if everyone in the crowd was wearing Obama's name and face on buttons, toques, jackets, and even shaved into their hair. One almost felt naked without a piece of this celebratory flair.

Written and Photographed by Jeeshan Chowdhury

I neglected to mention thoughts of theoretical children and the history textbooks that they would potentially read to the American border agent that pulled me, along with all other travellers to Washington, DC, into a small room in customs for additional screening. Rather, when asked why, as a Canadian, I was making the trip to an uniquely American event, I replied that as a good neighbour, I wanted to congratulate my American friends in person on the success of their democracy and celebrate with them their new sense of hope. The response was cliché, yet genuine, and the resulting smile that stole across the agent's face—one that would I soon find ubiquitous on the streets of the American capital—assured an unimpeded crossing.

While the streets were full of a palpable sense of joy and celebration, a special sense of victory and triumph hung in the air of our crowded apartment, radiating from those who had put up signs, called on voters, and knocked on doors for months during the campaign.

Following customs however, travel in the capital was anything but unimpeded. The scene at arrivals at Dulles International Airport foretold both the crowds and the characters that were quickly engulfing the city. Passengers clutching garment bags carrying tuxedos and gowns struggled to navigate through the flocks of grade school students in matching shirts and hats who were clutching to musical instrument cases. After finding my own luggage, consisting mainly a sleeping bag, I scrambled aboard a shuttle heading into the center of town, hoping that traffic was not yet as bad as the voice on the radio was predicting for the inauguration. The sound of Swahili filling the shuttle from a family of Kenyans in flowing robes, ill-dressed for the cooler climate, was oddly reassuring in that I wasn't the only international hoping to share in the festivities. It was only after the Kenyans piled out at the posh Mayflower hotel that the driver—also Kenyan—revealed that I just shared a shuttle with Barack Obama's uncle. I was skeptical until

he proudly showed me a credit card receipt with the proof of name shining brightly on it that then proceeded to eagerly put away in his pocket as if it were a relic.

With hotels booked solid for months and residents renting out rooms on Craigslist for hundreds of dollars, I luckily found shelter with a generous friend now studying law at Georgetown University. After arriving at his one bedroom apartment packed full with ten visitors for the inauguration, I found floor space in his kitchen to lay out my sleeping bag for the next few days. Aside from a cousin from Montreal, the remaining guests were a diverse group of American students, most first-generation Americans from Palestine, India, and Haiti. The apartment was littered with paraphernalia from the campaign as most of the guests had in some way worked, volunteered, or donated to the both Obama primary and presidential campaign. While the streets were full of a palpable sense of joy and celebration, a special sense of victory and triumph hung in the air of our crowded apartment, radiating from those who had put up signs, called on voters, and knocked on doors for months during the campaign. For these students the campaign wasn't just watched, but lived and breathed for the almost two years; the anticipation of the upcoming inauguration was still met with astonishment and celebration that erupted into spontaneous smiles, handshakes, and high-fives.

The Sunday before inauguration, an open air concert entitled "We Are One" was held at the Lincoln Memorial, which stands at the opposite end of the national mall from the Capitol building. Our small band struggled to stay together as streams of people wrestled to get a place as close to the stage as possible. We eventually found ourselves along the frozen reflecting pool, realizing that we were surrounded in all directions by a sea of people, predominately young faces, that was flowing to the music of a varied set of artists from the likes of Garth Brooks to U2.

Although it was bitingly cold, there was warmth in the huddled crowd. The weight of history that had been so prevalent throughout Obama's rise to the presidency uniquely came into focus as we stand in the same place as the Million Man March, hearing U2 sing their tribute to Martin Luther King before the memorial of the Great Emancipator. Musical acts were peppered with short messages from an equally diverse group of actors representing the patchwork heritage of America that Obama would later speak of in his inaugural address. Each person found





themselves cheering upon seeing someone of who reflected them on stage—I must admit to screaming loudly when Kal Penn appeared—but the cheers paled in comparison to those saved Obama when his image even briefly appeared on the large screens before the stage. The loud and boisterous crowd fell deftly silent at the end of the concert when Obama finally took stage, erupting in a deafening cacophony at his calls for service and action and filling the air with cheers of O-BA-MA as he walked off the stage.

It seemed as if everyone in the crowd was wearing Obama's name and face on buttons, t-shirts, jackets, and even shaved into their hair. One almost felt naked without a piece of this celebratory flair. Despite doubts in the confidence of the American economy, the vendors hawking Obama on every street corner proved that the market is still adept at capitalizing on opportunity. From the first step disembarking the jetway, I was greeted with the smiling face of Barack Obama plastered upon every possible piece of merchandise.

Fortunately, buttons ranged from the jubilant with smiling faces of Obama and his family to the poignant with the triad of Obama, Dr. King, and Malcolm X and the artistic styling of Obama's portrait by Shepard Fairey and Andy Warhol. For the next few days, one would not be able to escape the watchful eyes of Obama and his first family, as their likeness covered any and all free space on walls, street posts, and especially on people's bodies.

The night before the swearing in, various non-profit organizations and corporations held pre-inauguration balls hoping to both celebrate the historic event and direct some of the frenzy surrounding Obama towards their own causes. Al Gore hosted a Green Ball, a carbon neutral event dedicated to the creation of a new green economy. The few and expensive tickets sold out in minutes, but thanks to the invitation of a friend involved in the organizing committee, I donned a tuxedo and made my way behind the velvet rope.

After a long journey punctuated by delays caused by squealing motorcades that bullishly

took over the streets, I found myself in the court of the National Portrait Gallery, bathed in green light and decorations where the renewable energy industry and NGOs like the Sierra Club mixed with musicians, artists, and elected officials to the music of will.i.am, Melissa Etheridge, Maroon 5, John Legend, and Michael Franti. Politics in America—more so than at home in Canada—have always mixed with Hollywood, but particularly so in this election—the presence of celebrity was obvious at this inauguration. The same pride I saw in my own friends who had helped in the campaign was clearly visible from the artists like will.i.am and John Legend as they celebrated on stage.

With the intensity of the emotion in the crowd, the immensity of the moment didn't fully settle in for many until much later. As we walked home, our toes frozen and our bladders stretched, a uniformed military serviceman briefly took a break from his duty and announced proudly to his comrades that "Barack Obama is our Commander-in-Chief!"

The next morning, we woke at 5am thinking that we would try to get ahead of the millions that would be descending upon the national mall for the inauguration. As we put on as many layers as we could find in preparation for a long walk and wait to be part of history, blogs were reporting as early as 6am that the mall was already filling with people. In preparation for the daunting masses, roads around Capitol Hill closed to traffic. It was an impressive sight and feeling to be part

of a river of people slowly making their way along a six-lane commuter freeway. Despite the cold, long, and slow march to the mall, the atmosphere was buoyant. True to Obama's earlier words, the crowd was made up people of every race, creed, and station. The mall quickly reached capacity and we tried to stake a position as close to the stage as we could. Cursing myself for not buying a set of hand warmers from a street vendor, we tried to keep warm as the crowd slowly shuffled around us. People climbed up on trees, lamp posts, and even portable toilets to try and get a view. Finally, as the ceremony began, the sea of people began to calm. A loud and piercing boo spread through the crowd as the arrival of Bush was announced. But the constant din of the crowd came to a hush as Obama took the stage and everyone around me seemed to be holding their breath and grasping their chests while he took the oath. We lept as the man himself was finally declared President, and my vision was filled with arms raised in applause and flags waving. With the intensity of the emotion in the crowd, the immensity of the moment didn't fully settle in for many until much later. As we walked home, our toes frozen and our bladders stretched, a uniformed military serviceman briefly took a break from his duty and announced proudly to his comrades that "Barack Obama is our Commander-in-Chief!"

Returning to our crowded apartment, we immediately turned to our computers to again listen to the speech unobstructed by the crowd and without the wail of sirens. While there was no obvious "nothing to fear but fear itself" moment during his speech, the carefully chosen tempered, but strong words resonated. Personally, as a Muslim, there was a sense of pride to hear him take the oath proudly with his full name and to make an honest and genuine call to the Muslim world. I sat next to a Palestinian American who days earlier was trying to reach his relatives in Gaza, and a newly graduated student still searching for a job. Despite the immediate issues they faced, their optimism and confidence were undeterred.



But the constant din of the crowd came to a hush as Obama took the stage and everyone around me seemed to be holding their breath and grasping their chests while he took the oath. We lept as the man himself was finally declared President.

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Photo: Michael Holly, Creative Services

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SOCIAL INTERCOURSE

Edmonton Queen: The Final Voyage

22 January-1 February at 8pm
 Transalta Arts Barn, Westbury Theatre
 (10330-84 Ave)
 \$19.50 for students at Fringe Theatre
 Adventures Box Office
 (fringetheatreadventures.ca)

Edmonton Queen: The Final Voyage will be the last performance of the nationally acclaimed play from author Darrin Hagen put on by the Guys in Disguise theatre company. In case you haven't figured out at this point, *Final Voyage* is blatantly, and unapologetically transgendered theatre.

Hagen has made a name for himself in transgendered and homosexual theatre since starting *Gays in Disguise* in 1987. When he first put on *Edmonton Queen: Not a Riverboat Story*, which eventually won an Elizabeth Sterling Haynes award for outstanding new work in 1997, it was received with much applause across Canada and did much to advance gay and transgendered presence in the media and pop culture.

Hagen's hard work came to fruition in 2005 when he was named one of Edmonton's 100 greatest Edmontonians of the past 100 years for the city's centenary celebration.

ESO Sci-Fi Spectacular

Conducted by Jack Everly
 Directed by George Takei
 23-24 January at 8pm
 Winspear Centre (99 St and 102 Ave)
 \$24-79 at Winspear Box Office
 tickets.winspearcentre.com

The sci-fi spectacular is one of the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra's infrequent but always memorable forays into the world of mainstream pop culture. The ESO Robbins Pops will take listeners on a deep-space journey through the music of *Somewhere in Time*, *2001: A Space Odyssey*, *The Day the Earth Stood Still*, and *Star Trek*.

And for any trekkies still on the fence, the evening will be narrated by Mr Sulu of Star Trek fame himself. That's right—George Takei will be present to guide guests on this cosmic journey with his magnetic baritone voice. Although Takei played a minor role on the hit series relative to co-stars William Shatner or Leonard Nimoy, *Star Trek* still propelled him to fame in sci-fi circles. Takei has recently re-popularized himself with his guest appearance on *Heroes*, his public name-calling spats with co-star Shatner, and an open declaration of homosexuality in 2005, all of which have contributed to his resurgence.

Special guest conductor Jack Everly, principal pops conductor of the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, will lead the Robbins Pops. In 1998, Everly created the Indianapolis-based Symphonic Pops Consortium, which has brought symphonic pops music to cities all over North America.

Three Mo' Tenors

Directed by Marion J Caffey
 24 January-15 February at 7pm
 The Citadel (Shoctor Theatre,
 9828-101A Ave)
 Tickets \$50-75 at ticketmaster.ca

Not to be confused with *The Three Tenors*, *Three Mo' Tenors* is composed of singers Kenneth Alston, Marion Caffey and Ramone Diggs, three self-styled "black tenors" devoted to spreading the influence of African-American opera.

Since 2001, the operatic group has made a name for themselves packaging their classical singing style into a dynamic and entertaining live show.

Trained in operatic, jazz, gospel, soul, broadway, blues, and a myriad of other styles, the eclectic and electric performance of the three has earned them appearances on NBC and rave reviews from the Boston Globe and Amsterdam News.

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HAILEY SIRACKY

If I should fall from Grace with God

Taking on a play about creationism sounds risky, but the director ensures us it's all in good faith

theatre preview

Grace

Directed by John Hudson
 Written by Craig Wright
 Starring Nathan Cuckow, Jean-Pierre Fournier,
 Myla Southward, and Frank Zottler
 22 January-8 February, Tuesday-Saturday at
 7:30pm, Saturday-Sunday at 2pm
 Varscona Theatre (10329-83 Ave)
 \$17-25 at tixonthesquare.com or the Varscona
 Box Office

DAVID JOHNSTON
 Arts & Entertainment Staff

"If the earth was created in six days," explains John Hudson, "then my question always is, 'do we know how long a day is for God?' You're assuming it's a 24-hour clock, but it might be a lot longer than that."

Diverse creationist viewpoints are just one aspect discussed in playwright Craig Wright's library of work, to which Hudson is no stranger. That kind of spiritual questioning is at the heart of *Grace*, the latest Wright work that Shadow Theatre is bringing to the Varscona stage. For Hudson, the artistic director of the company as well as the director of the show, the religious themes are pivotal to the production.

"Spiritual beliefs definitely have a huge part of it and they're a big part about what he's going for. It doesn't matter which play of his you're looking at—they always have the big universal issues."

Grace tells the story of a husband-and-wife pair of born-again Christians who move to Florida. While the husband hopes to start a chain of religious motels, his wife looks to strike up a friendship with the injured NASA scientist living next door, a fervent non-believer. The premise may sound like a sketch comedy, but Hudson is quick to assure that the characters don't ever

come across as clichés.

"The brilliant thing about this play to is that [Wright] doesn't mock anyone's beliefs—everyone is treated with respect," he states, noting that the delicate balance of humor and drama lends the production an unusual dynamic. "There are scenes that will start off really funny and then just turn on a dime. And suddenly the whole tone changes into something quite dark."

"You're always looking for balance," Hudson continues in a more reflective tone. "You want to have plays that are going to challenge you and are going to challenge the audience, but you also want plays that the audience are just going to have a great time with."

Hudson doesn't believe that *Grace* is Shadow's most challenging work of the year—that award is already pegged to Scott Sharplin's *A Year of Winter in March*—nor will it have the sheer laugh-out-loud nature of the upcoming operatic romp *Glorious* at the end of May. For Hudson, the importance of the piece comes from its status somewhere between the two and the questions it raises.

"There are scenes that will start off really funny and then just turn on a dime. And suddenly the whole tone changes into something quite dark."

JOHN HUDSON
 DIRECTOR, GRACE

"I think this one is—well, I think it's one that they're going to find really exciting, and the way he works in little subtextual themes, religious themes and such, so the process has been like mining for nuggets of gold here. So this one is our good thought-provoking piece."

It helps that Hudson is putting the show together with a diverse cast of Edmonton actors. Some like Myla Southward are Shadow veterans

(appearing in last year's *MacGregor's Hard Ice Cream and Gas*), while Grace will mark the company's debut for Frank Zottler and JP Fournier—though Hudson has worked with both before and can attest to their strengths.

"When you're dealing with great actors and great designers, you also want to have great material for them to work with. I feel I've got a really wonderful complement of artists here and Craig is the base for us all."

It won't be his first time working with Wright as a base, either. Hudson directed Wright's Pulitzer-prize nominated *The Pavilion* in 2005, while his Shadow companion Wayne Paquette introduced Edmonton theatre audiences to Wright's *Orange Flower Water* last spring. Is there something about Wright that keeps the members of Shadow coming back?

"He's just a great writer," admits Hudson matter-of-factly. "I'm attracted to great artists and I think Craig Wright is a great artist. I think he's in that pantheon of great playwrights that are working right now."

Since Hudson's pantheon includes John Patrick Shanley (*Doubt*) and Richard Greenberg, (*Three Days of Rain*), Wright is among some prestigious company indeed. "Sometimes you just connect with some artists and here's one where his work really speaks to me, so I keep coming back."

Many audience members are going to recognize Wright's words from another medium than the theatre. The American writer was also one of the producers on HBO's *Six Feet Under* and the creator/executive producer of ABC's recently cancelled *Dirty Sexy Money*. Hudson, who admits to being a die-hard *Six Feet Under* fan, believes that Wright's work is equally intelligent and captivating no matter whether it's onscreen or onstage.

"What you've seen in those shows, that kind of sophistication and writing, and the same sort of intellectual weight that he brings to those productions, you'll find in this play as well. He's constantly grappling with the big questions," he grins. "He's just trying to work it all out."



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GOTTA BE KD A member of Stomp uses boxes of Kraft's fluorescent orange pasta to make music Tuesday during a philanthropic appearance at the Edmonton Food Bank, where the cast was volunteering and collecting food donations.

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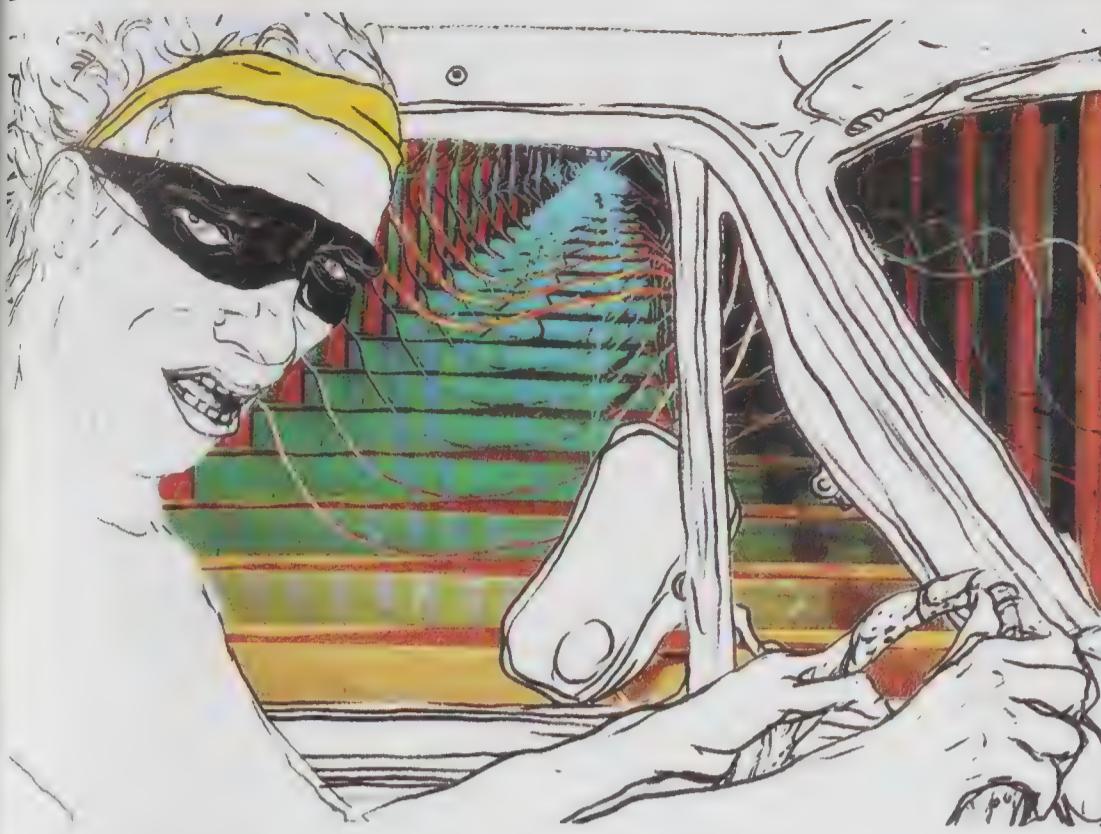


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Moving at 24 frames per second

The Best of Ottawa 2008 pushes the animation envelope with a variety of films

filmreview

Best of Ottawa International Animation Festival 2008

23-26 January
Metro Cinema (9828-101A Ave)

GARY ALLEN
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Sometimes when you're yearning for a film on Saturday night, you're not always looking for the latest Katherine Heigl rom-com or even one of the many horror movies that seem to glut cinema screens every January.

If you happen to be looking for something entertaining, thought-provoking, and at times a little odd or different, then this collection of animated shorts from the Ottawa International Animation Festival 2008 might just be for you. The 70-minute collection of nine films ranging from 3-25 minutes has something for everybody and challenges you to re-examine the medium of animation without feeling anywhere near as pretentious as it sounds.

The films presented are hugely varied, and while you might not enjoy every scene, the brevity of the lesser moments helps to keep things ticking along. Weaker points in the selection include *Cattle Call*, which is a three minute "documentary" about the verbal acrobatics of cattle auctioneers, and *The Mixy Tapes*, which is a narrative short

that ponders the search for the perfect idea. It's hard to describe any of these shorts as uninventive, but neither of these films has a central theme powerful enough to sustain the artistry, even for such a short period of time.

The more affecting moments come from a pair of films that deal with surprisingly gritty issues for the oft underestimated medium of animation. *I Slept With Cookie Monster*, despite the cuddly title, is actually a rumination on a woman's struggle with an abusive partner with whom she has a child.

This selection of shorts, while not entirely consistent, is always innovative and, for the most part, entirely engrossing.

Similarly, *A Letter to Colleen* examines the haunting memory of the narrator's 18th birthday and his inability to properly come to terms with it. It's intriguing how such sombre subjects work so well with animation and both films capture the spirit of their respective events with intelligence and an appropriate level of gravitas.

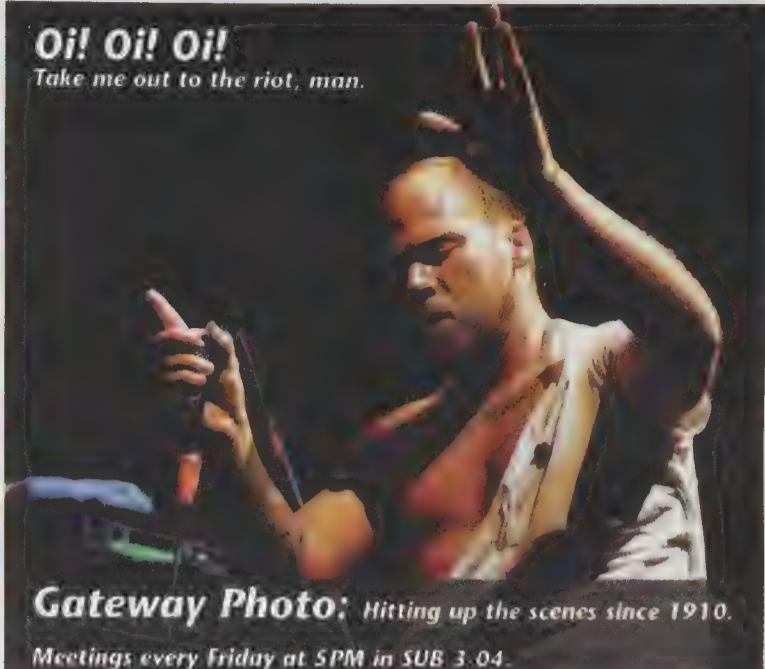
There are also a couple of selections presented that simply revel in their own artistry, but again without any of the pretension that might imply. *Último 'Spong Ice'* is a music video that features two dancers, filmed in black and white, being painted on. It's a simple concept, but is highly amusing.

largely due to the juxtaposition of the playful painted effects with the rather serious dance performance. The *Control Master* uses cutouts of '50s-style stock images to tell the story of a 50-foot woman placed in peril when a mischievous stranger steals her remote control. The utilized images play on the conventions of stock photography using the superhero narrative as the perfect exposition technique.

The last film in the selection, *Chainsaw*, is by far the longest at 25 minutes and is also the most accomplished. It weaves together elements from a group of stories to create a cohesive narrative which is then matched with gorgeous animation interspersed with film clips. While the selection as a whole is entertaining, this film alone is worth the price of admission. Its playful way of moving from one storyline to the next—always bringing with it a strand from the last—is fascinating and the film's ultimate payoff makes it feel like a feature, leaving the audience wanting more.

Sometimes it's nice to challenge our conventions about things ranging from animation to the nature of a Saturday night movie. This selection of shorts, while not entirely consistent, is always innovative and, for the most part, entirely engrossing. From serious moments to flashes of complete absurdity the Best of Ottawa 2008 will make you think and entertain you.

Oi! Oi! Oi!
Take me out to the riot, man.



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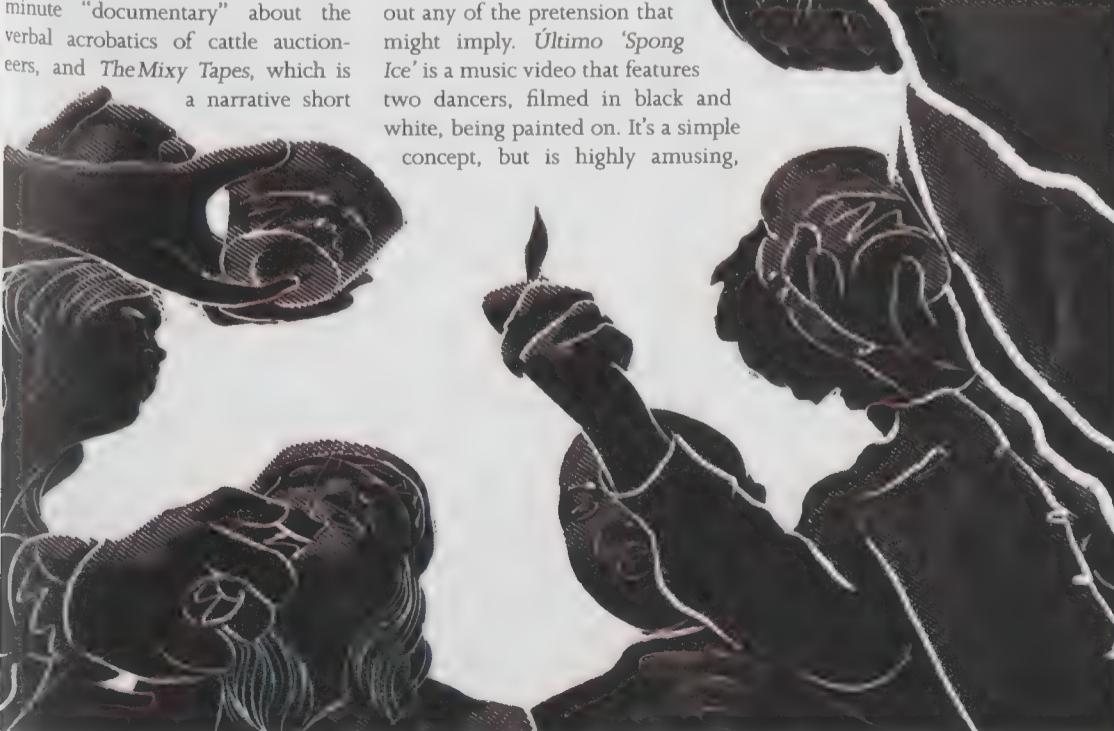
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Anberlin amigos value friendship

musicpreview

Anberlin

With Madina Lake and Between the Trees
Sunday, 25 January at 7pm
Starlite Room (10030-102 St)
\$18 at Blackbird Myoozik,
unionevents.com, and
ticketmaster.ca

LARON YEO
Entertainment Staff

In 2008, Quiet Riot, Wolfmother, From Autumn to Ashes, and more than 50 other popular musical groups effectively died. Most disbanded or went through major lineup changes, while some are on hiatus for "indefinitely long" periods of time. Even the Red Hot Chili Peppers don't have any clear-cut plans on coming back. Drama and dysfunction within bands continues to be an integral part of popular music—at least if you believe the tabloids.

On the other end of the spectrum is Anberlin, the antithesis of unstable and explosive band chemistry. Calling from Grand Rapids, Michigan, drummer Nathan Young insists tight friendship bonds hold them together.

"A lot of the passion that comes from Anberlin is affected by how close we are. We're all best friends. We all get along so well. I really do think that it's

rare for a band these days. You see all these bands breaking up, or even if they stay together they don't like each other and they don't get along. But we're so close, and we all have such a good time. We're obviously not brothers, but we do feel that way."

An alternative rock band hailing from Florida, it's clear from talking to Young that Anberlin really do feel like a family. Occasionally, performers will get along just fine on stage, but once they're behind the curtains, hell breaks loose. Fights, drug addictions, and general tension finds its place in almost every successful band. But Young emphasizes that onstage, Anberlin isn't a façade.

"We want to make sure nothing ever gets in the way of us being friends."

NATHAN YOUNG
DRUMMER, ANBERLIN

"I just want people to know that it's not a show where it's us pretending that we get along. It's real. We really do love each other and we have such a good time doing what we do. It's completely 100 per cent organic and real."

Although it may seem boring in the fast-paced drama of the music industry, Young wants to publicize that the

friendship is their feature—and for their fans, that's a good thing. No disputes and arguments means a longer lasting band and more music to come in the future.

"We want to make sure nothing ever gets in the way of us being friends," he explains. "No matter how much we love Anberlin or how much we enjoy it, it's not going to be around forever. What's going to be around forever? It's the fact that we're all good friends, and even after Anberlin, we're still going to be in contact."

At the same time, however, none of them really know where they're headed. After riding out the success of their 2007 release *New Surrender*, which debuted at number five on the Top Current Rock chart in the US, the band makes no future plans (even though a 2010 album release is rumoured). Instead, they just let the wind carry them and never let any qualms get between them—even if the band ends up folding as a result.

"If Anberlin ended tomorrow, we'd all be okay with it. [...] We never in a million years would have thought that we'd get to this level, so the fact that we are is just an incredible thing."

"We're close, but that's not to say we never get in fights or we never argue because we definitely do. Just like any normal group of friends. But at the end of the day, we're still best friends and we try not to let anything get between that, not even the music."

shiny aluminum cans. The box comes with a three-step guide written in Japanese that takes you through the act of drinking it, along with a smiling cartoon man who clearly thinks that it goes well with bread or rice, as he has a helpful thought bubble illustrating those exact ideas.

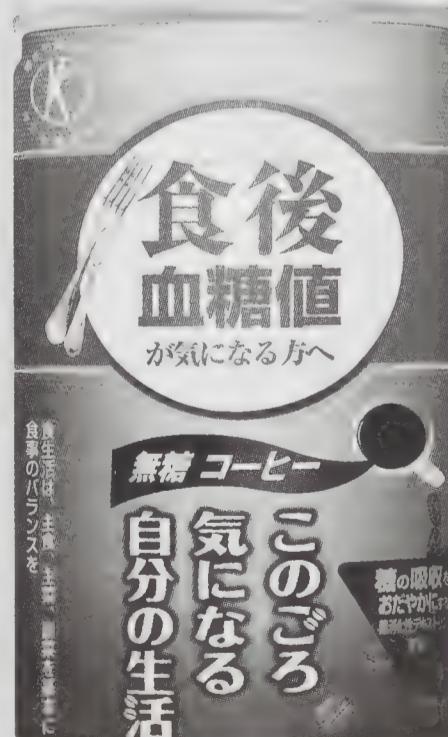
The experience of consuming Konogoru, in contrast, wasn't nearly as pleasant. The dirty coffee filter smell was unsettling enough, but downing the 150mL can of fibre drink was like drinking cold, watery, three-day-old coffee that has the consistency and viscosity of motor oil. It forms a film on the inside of your esophagus and stomach that sticks around for hours, lubricating your insides like 10W30, and has a vague metallic aftertaste like you just licked a gigantic Japanese robot. Although it wasn't totally atrocious, it's unclear how anyone could drink a can every morning, since most of the editors resorted to adding a dose of Baileys in order to make it more palatable.

While the majority of the testers who drank Konogoru didn't experience any unusual gastronomical side effects, we all agreed that things felt a bit looser down there. However, I did end up with a blinding head rush roughly half an hour after consumption—something I would assume is akin to drinking three

Red Bulls, then doing several lines of coke.

Editor-in-Chief Mike Kendrick was the only one who had a seriously compromised colon thanks to Konogoru, gallantly and tastefully describing his bowel movements over the following three days as being akin to "shooting creamed corn through a SuperSoaker."

Managing Editor Conal Pierse summed up our general feelings about Japanese Tobacco's product for a better lifestyle when he said that their slogan should be "Konogoru—for when your bowels absolutely need to be emptied before ritualistic seppuku."



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SPORTS

sports@gateway.ualberta.ca • thursday, 22 january 2009

Ice Bears ready to renew rivalry

Clare Drake Arena set to host two more chapters in the longstanding rivalry between Alberta and Saskatchewan



EVAN DAUM
Sports Writer

One of the fiercest rivalries that the CIS has to offer will hit the ice this weekend as the top-ranked Golden Bears face off against the fourth-ranked Saskatchewan Huskies at Clare Drake Arena.

The rivalry between the two programs is steeped in tradition—from the Bears' thrilling back-to-back national championship wins in 1999 and 2000 captured in Saskatoon, to Alberta scoring the conference title over the Huskies en route to their 13th national title just last season, these provincial neighbours have locked horns over the years to form the heated rivalry that exists now.

"When these two teams get together, for as long as I can remember, anything can happen. These are two very good teams that play playoff hockey no matter what time of year it is," Bears head coach Eric Thurston said. "Saskatchewan brings out the best in us, and I think we bring out the best in them, which makes for good hockey."

Saskatchewan comes into the series two points behind Alberta in the standings, but the Bears have the added benefit of being two games in hand over their rivals in second place. This weekend's doubleheader is an opportunity for them to cripple the Huskies' first-place aspirations, and propel themselves into a virtual lock on the top spot in the conference—even a split with the sled dogs would mean the Bears would keep their two-point lead intact while maintaining a two-game advantage.

"If we can keep those two games in

hand and put some distance between us head-to-head, we can control our own destiny. It's important to first establish home ice advantage. It's important to make the statement that we're a team to be reckoned with—we're going to come battle you whether it's in your rink or in ours," said Thurston.

A key for the Bears success will be keeping conference leading-scorer Steven DaSilva off the score sheet. The 6'0 forward is the lone Canada West player in top-ten scoring nationally and Thurston knows that his team must be mindful of the talented rookie.

"He works very hard, has a great shot, and is playing with good juice."

Certainly, I think he's got a chance to go to the next level and he's finding a lot of success in Canada West—he's a guy we have to watch up on."

Along with DaSilva, the Huskies also sport the conference's second- and third-leading point-getters in Steven Gillen and Casey Lee, giving them the best top-line threat in Canada West. The Bears will counter with a top-tier sniper of their own in Chad Klassen, who sits third in the conference

scoring—one point behind Gillen with nine goals and 17 assists.

"These guys have played against each other in the WHL, and now here—there's certainly no love lost," Thurston remarked.

If history is any indication, the two-game series slated for this weekend will not disappoint. The teams hit the ice at 7:30pm both Friday and Saturday night at the Drake. Both games can also be heard online at www.bears.ualberta.ca.

TALE OF THE TAPE



Saskatchewan
Huskies

Alberta
Golden Bears



14-5-1
(29 points, 2nd in Canada West)

Record
(W-L-T)

15-2
(31 points, 1st in Canada West)

+26 (82 for, 56 against)

Goal Differential

+43 (79 for, 36 against)

Steven DaSilva (15-21-36)
Steven Gillen (9-18-27)
Casey Lee (9-15-24)

Leading Scorers
(G-A-PTS)

Chad Klassen (9-17-26)
Derek Ryan (8-12-20)
Brian Woolger (8-11-19)

25 October, 2008
(5-2 win @ Alberta)

Last Victory
in Series

24 October, 2008
(7-6 win vs Saskatchewan)

Dave Adolph (15th year)

Head Coach

Eric Thurston (4th year)

Brent Tworodik (5th year)

Captains

Tyler Metcalfe (4th year)

Jeff Harvey
(12-2-0-1, 2.44 GAA)

Starting
Goaltenders

Aaron Sorochan
(10-0-0-1, 1.34 GAA)



STOPPED IN HIS TRACKS Bears libero Tyler Myroniuk (6) pauses in the backcourt as Tim Gourlay (14) bumps the ball.

Bears end regular home season against Wesmen

Alberta set to face Winnipeg team they've met two years in a row in CIS final

NICK FROST

As the regular season begins to wind down and Canada West playoffs draw closer, the Golden Bears volleyball team (14-0) will embark on their final two home games of the regular season this weekend as they prepare to throw down with the Winnipeg Wesmen (7-5) in front of the intense faithful at the Main Gym.

With only four games remaining on the schedule, now is the time when the strongest become separated from the weak and teams begin showing cracks in terms of their ability to endure down the stretch. Having yet to lose—or, for that matter, even show signs of slowing down—Bears head coach Terry Danyluk credits the goal-driven nature of his players as the main factor in their ability to stay

competitive this late into the season.

"There are a lot of guys who have set fairly serious goals for themselves for this season and I think the fact that, as a group, they've set some standards that they'd like to keep up, that's been probably the main reason they've been able to do some of the things that they've done," Danyluk explained. "We've had some bleeps in the qualities of some of our performances, but when push comes to shove, our guys are really working hard most of the time."

Alberta's men, as a result of their lasting success, have managed to experience some dizzying highs this year—many of which happened right here in front of the roaring crowds on the Bears' home court. Though difficult to single out one particular favourite memory, several key matchups stand out in Danyluk's mind when reminiscing about 2008/09.

"We've had a lot of good things happen at home this year," Danyluk reflected. "Can-Am is always a highlight, just because the gym is always full and it gives you an idea of what to expect towards the end of the season and into the playoffs. I think for a lot of the guys, too, Can-Am has been

one of the highlight moments. Our matches with Calgary are always good because of the local rivalry."

"Anytime we've gotten a chance to play at home, the guys have been excited about it. I can't pick out any particular moment per se; I just know that they like playing at our gym, as do our opponents."

The Golden Bears will prepare to host a team that they've become very familiar with over the past two seasons. Alberta has faced the Wesmen in consecutive years in the CIS Championship final—Winnipeg went home golden in 2006/07 but were defeated by the Green and Gold in 2007/08.

"We've played Winnipeg in the national final the last two years, so they're a really well-coached team and a talented group of guys," Danyluk said. "For them, right now, it's about trying to solidify the best possible playoff spot, but nothing is secure for them at this moment. I expect them to come in here and give us a tough match like they always do."

First serve goes at 6:30pm on Friday night, followed by an 8pm start on Saturday, both at the Main Gym.

On This Day in 1998:



The NHL expansion franchise awarded to Minnesota selected "Wild" as its team name. You know what else is wild? Volunteering for *Gateway Sports*—meetings are Tuesdays at 5pm in 3-04 SUB.

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Pandas looking to bounce back

Despite losses to TWU, Alberta has sights set on redemption versus Wesmen

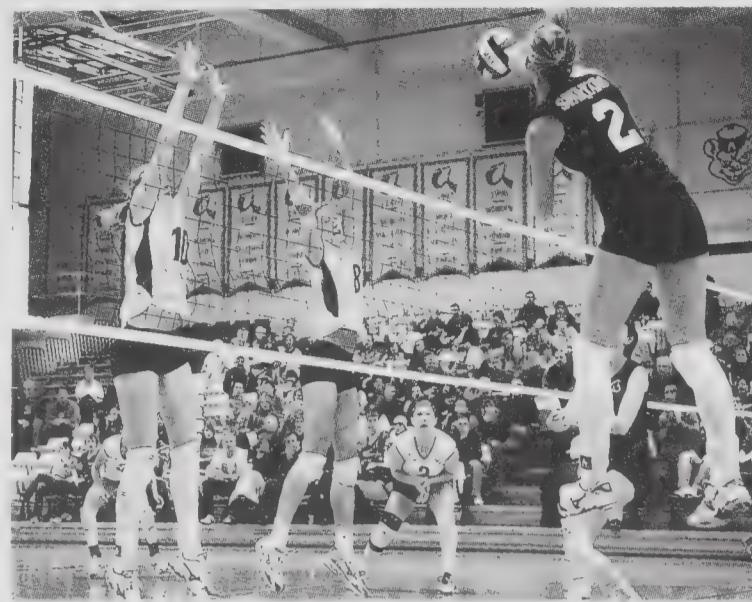
NICK FROST
Sports Editor

After being swept by the Trinity Western Spartans in arguably their toughest two matchups of the year thus far, the Pandas volleyball team will look to rebound this weekend against the hapless Winnipeg Wesmen (1-13) and snap their three-game home-losing streak in the process.

Despite the setback of coming away from a weekend set without a win, Alberta's focus in practice this week remains the same according to head coach Laurie Eisler. The 17-year coach of the Pandas explained that, while there will be a sharper emphasis on correcting the mistakes learned in Friday and Saturday night's losses, there isn't a need for a major ideological shift in the way they've been practicing all year. While their last three home outings (dating back to 22 November) were bitter pills to swallow, all the things that have happened up to this point are all considered integral phases of their progression moving forward.

"The last two weekends that we've played at home, we've faced some very, very good competition," Eisler admitted. "Do I feel good about the fact that we lost? Absolutely not, but I'm not going to panic and overreact to it, or say that we're dogging it now—we're not."

"The margins have been very slim and you can't afford to help your opponents out. Honestly though, against some of the teams that we play, you can—you can get away with it."



FILE PHOTO: PETE YEE

RIGHT ANGLES TWU's Kara Jensen Van Doorn (2) looks to elude the Pandas D.

But then, maybe, you become a little complacent in your play and it always comes back to bite you."

Though the Wes-ladies currently sit at the bottom of the Canada West standings with only one win in 14 games, Alberta's team still expects challenges in certain areas of the court. After the eligibility of perennial All-Canadian Nicola Dirks came to end last year, the Pandas hoped that they would finally be able to take advantage of a team without a left-handed power hitter; however, their opponents have found a suitable replacements to combat the Alberta defence.

"They've changed their system and they're not playing the style they've

played in the past, so there's some challenges in that," Eisler explained. "We haven't played them since early in the year and we did so without Marlee Bragg—one of their other key players on the left side—who has come back from an ACL injury. She's a great jumper and can hit some really sharp angles."

"So, they have two power hitters that are very legitimate players that can really dictate for them offensively. Also, they run a really quick offence to the middle, so there will be some challenges there around what we do defensively."

The Pandas hit the Main Gym court against Winnipeg at 8pm on Friday and 6:30pm on Saturday.

SPORTS SHORTS

Compiled by Matt Pretty

Swimming

Alberta's swim teams will be back in the water again this weekend as they head to the Canada West Finals at the University of Victoria. Last year, both the Bears and Pandas picked up bronze medals at the championships, finishing behind traditional swimming powerhouses Calgary and UBC.

Two Pandas to watch are veteran Lauren Gillespie, ranked fourth in the country in the 200-metre backstroke, and rookie Kayla Voytechek, who placed second in CIS in the 50-metre breaststroke. Bears to keep an eye on include Brian Yakiwchuk, who placed third at last year's national championships in the 1500-metre freestyle, and Winston Yeap, who's ranked in the top ten in the country in both the 50- and 100-metre breaststroke.

Since all but three of the 30 Alberta swimmers have more than one year of eligibility left, improvement this year ought to signal success for years to come. The meet will run all weekend from Friday to Sunday, and results will be posted daily on canadawest.org.

Pandas Hockey

After complete and total domination at UBC last weekend, the puck Pandas (16-2-0) will take to the road again this week as they head south for a two-game set with the Lethbridge Pronghorns (2-15-1).

It's the final series of the conference season between the two teams—the Pandas swept both previous series at Clare Drake Arena, outscoring the Horns 30-3 in four games. Alberta's

top-ranked offence has scored 13 goals in 18 games, while Lethbridge's bottom-ranked defence has only 10 goals in 18 games, so the Pandas have a good shot at continuing their offensive roll. Puck drops at 7pm Friday and Saturday.

Pandas Basketball

The Pandas basketball team (11-6) travel east again this weekend in a critical series with the University of British Columbia Huskies (14-2). If the Pandas can find any chance at first place in the Canada West Division and a first-round bye, they must win both games. Otherwise, Alberta will be left to look for a second spot in the tournament.

In two games expected to be played in Edmonton, the Pandas will be looking to improve on their narrow margin of victory in the first game if they hope to win the series. It will be imperative to keep an eye on the Huskies' faces on defense. Both games are at 5pm Saturday, and a live-stream of the games can be found at huskies.u

Golden Bears Basketball

The hardcourt Bears (8-8) travel east to Saskatoon for their next game, and it will be even more significant seeing as the Huskies' counterparts (7-9) are in eighth place.

Alberta will have to get better on defense to be successful as the Huskies are the conference's top rebounding team.

Sask point guard Showell准將 who scored a whopping 28 points in an earlier game this season, will be a factor. Not only is he leading the Canada West scoring with 24.2 points per game, but he's also putting up 5.5 assists and 4.2 steals per game. Alberta will need to be contained for the Pandas to have a chance at scoring-by-committee approach to find their rhythm.

The action will start at 7pm Saturday, and a live stat will be available at huskies.usask.ca

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astronowatch

by Kati Kovacs

I am hopeful about the future of science/space research. With the way that the economy has been going, the progress of public and private space research in the US has been stilted. Likewise, the "war on terror" provided an excellent excuse for US government funds to be diverted from scientific research to the military.

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Under Obama, however, it looks like it's going to be different. The man actually mentioned science in his inaugural speech! I hope he does indeed harness the power of the sun, winds, and soil, to restore science to its rightful place. Only then can we land on Mars. And by "we," I mean me.

I'm sure a few of you have been wondering what that brilliant point of light in the western night sky is. That's Jupiter, baby! If you have a pair of

binoculars, make sure you bust them out tonight. With them, you'll be able to see the largest planet in the solar system and its four moons.

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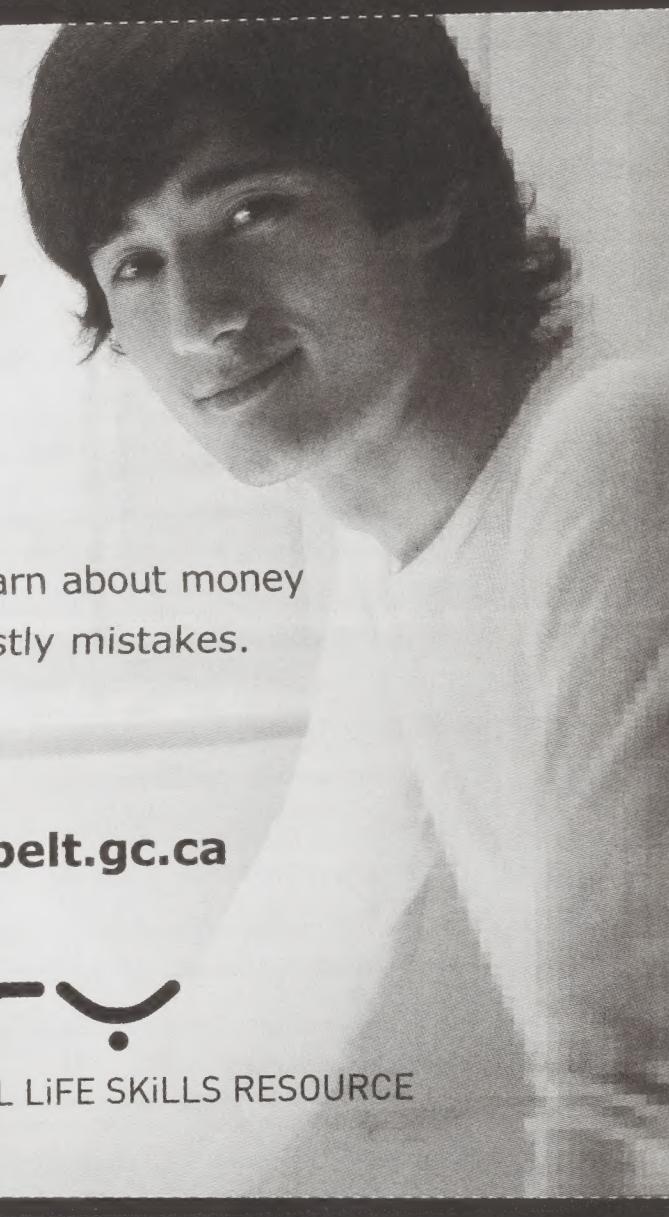
...And I thought I was fat. The Milky Way's weight has been recently re-estimated to be 3 trillion times the

mass of our sun. Go on a diet, you massive galaxy! Disgusting.

Astronowatch is a weekly feature that covers the goings-on in the night skies, the galaxy, and sometimes even Kati's personal life. Keep up with Astronowatch online at thegatewayonline.ca/astronowatch or check out the FABservatory's site at www.phys.ualberta.ca/observatory

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Unfortunately, these experiences are usually the first students must sacrifice when faced with excessive cost pressures.

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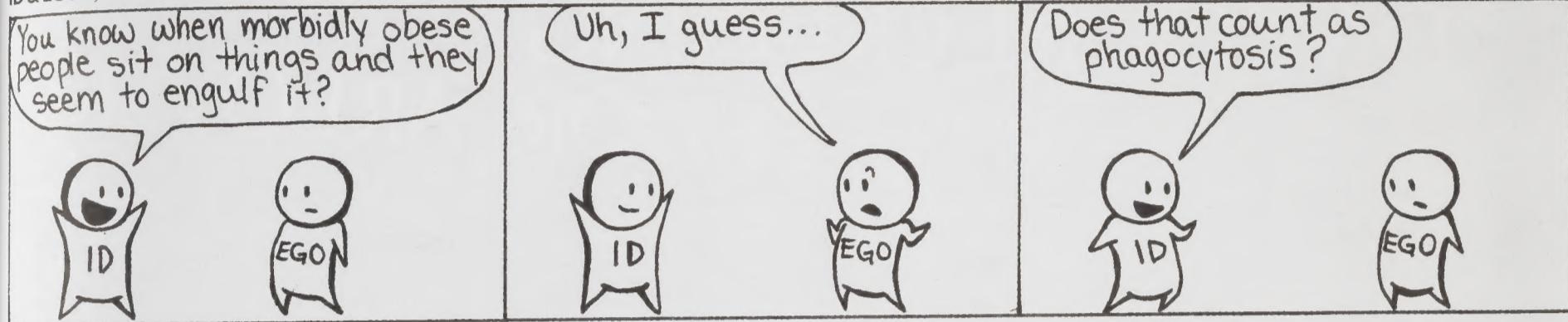
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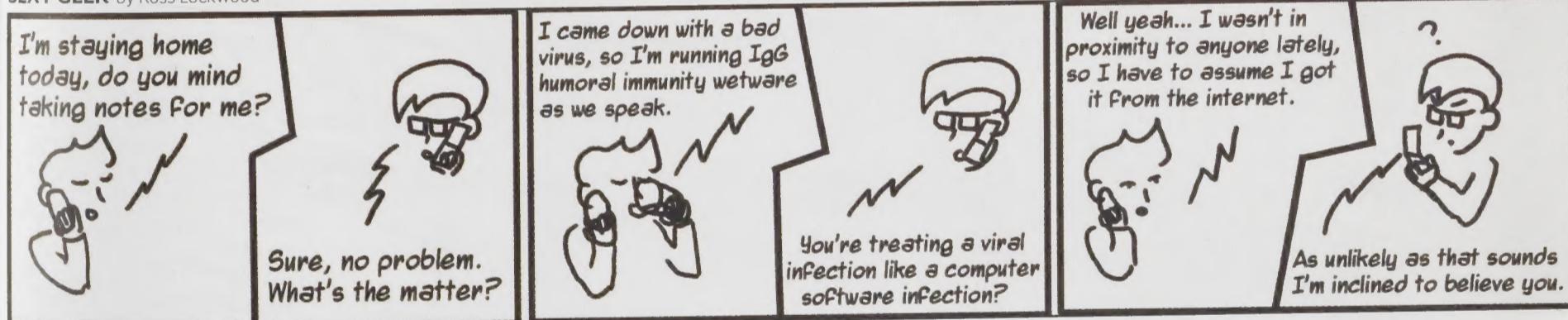
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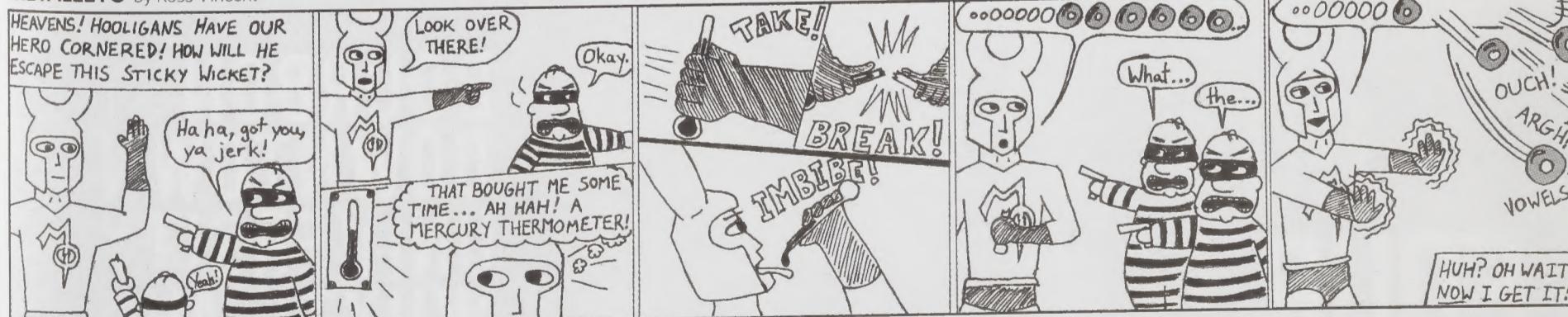
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